THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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TCS, INFY AMONG WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE I.T. BRANDS

Six Indian firms are among the world's fastest-growing IT Services brands, according to Brand Finance's new report

ACCENTURE STRONGEST IT SERVICES BRAND

Accenture has retained the title of world's most valuable and strongest IT services brand, with record brand value of $36.2 billion. Apart from TCS (2nd spot), Infosys (3rd), Wipro (7th), HCL (8th), Tech Mahindra (15th) and LTI (22nd) are the other Indian IT services companies on the London-based global brand valuation firm's top 25 list, released on Wednesday

U.S. TECH GIANT IBM PUSHED TO 4TH SLOT

- Both TCS (brand value $16.8 bn) and Infosys ($12.8 bn) have beaten IBM, whose value slipped to $10.6 bn after it hived off its managed infra services business as a new entity called Kyndryl
- A global turn to remote working as well as digitalisation facilitated expansion of IT services hubs within India | P10

Tik Tok

FASTEST GROWING BRAND IN THE WORLD WITH AN ASTOUNDING 215% GROWTH

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Azad readies to do an Amarinder

Expected to float party; won't have pre-poll pact with the BJP in J&K but would be open to alliance after elections

SHAHID FARIDI @ New Delhi

VETERAN Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad is all set to 'do an Amarinder' on the Congress party, albeit in a phased manner.

Highly placed sources said that Azad is ready to float a new political party in Jammu and Kashmir, where he had once headed a Congress-led coalition government as chief minister.

Azad's new political party would not enter into a formal pre-poll seat-sharing agreement with the BJP but would not shy away from a post-poll understanding if numbers so dictate, sources said.

He has already addressed a series of well-attended public meetings in Jammu & Kashmir. And a large number of his supporters from within the Congress party have resigned from their posts in J&K. While there has been speculation about BJP's support to Azad's outreach, the Congress leadership confirmed its suspicions about his activities by removing him from its central disciplinary committee.

The stage now seems set for the septuagenarian Azad to begin a new innings.

The BJP, which has had a strong base in the Jammu-Udhampur region but lacks support in the Muslim-dominated Kashmir Valley, has been working hard to get friendly parties to win seats in the Valley. Though the BJP is said to have propped up a couple of small outfits like the Apni Party for the purpose, it is banking big on Azad's new party to make a serious dent on the two main players in the Kashmir Valley — the National Conference and the People's Democratic Party.

Altaf Bukhari's Apni Party (called the King's party in Kashmir for its proximity with the BJP), Sajjad Lone's People's Conference and Ghulam Nabi Azad's new party are expected to work in tandem to beat the big two in the Valley.

The process of delimitation of Assembly constituencies in J&K is underway and once it is completed, elections would be announced in the state.

Both the BJP and Azad's party would go into the election with the promise of restoration of statehood for J&K.

As the decision of statehood restoration would be taken by the Central government, the promise may help the BJP sweep elections in the Jammu-Udhampur region.

But that may not be enough to form the next government in J&K. A lot, therefore, would depend on the performance of Azad's party.

Sources say that the announcement of Padma Bhushan for Azad is just the beginning of the build-up. A slew of other measures are in the pipeline to pitch him at the centre of Valley politics.

With his plan to break away from the Congress finalised, Azad appears set to have the last laugh on the Congress joke that his parents named him Ghulam Nabi with the hope that he will be a servant (Ghulam) of the Prophet (Nabi) knowing little that he will end up being a servant of successive Congress presidents.

Not true, he can say now.

Ghulam Nabi Azad

Bouquets & brickbats

With the Centre tactically placing Ghulam Nabi Azad on the Padma list, the gulf between the G23 leaders in the Congress and the Gandhi family loyalists was back in focus. Kapil Sibal, Anand Sharma and Raj Babbar greeted Azad saying it was well deserved, but Jairam Ramesh urged him to reject the award P7

Ophthalmic society cautions docs against online aggregators

RANJANI MADHAVAN @ Bengaluru

CAUTIONING its doctor-members against tying up with online medical aggregator platforms, like Pristyn, Medfin, Practo and others, the Bangalore Ophthalmic Society (BOS) on Wednesday told them that these platforms are nothing but online touts.

The Society stated that it has written a letter to its members as it has noticed some doctors being approached, while others having already tied up with these online aggregators to gain patients. The Society said, "These platforms offer patients and charge a commission for the same. We wish to remind our members that not only is this unethical, it is also a violation of The Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations Act, 2002."

Explaining their grouse with these platforms, Dr YL Rajashekar, past president of BOS, said, "These aggregators act like middlemen taking commissions from doctors, similar to how Ola and Uber charge their drivers. This amounts to bribery. There are clear cut rules in the state and country, which say there can't be middlemen, between doctors and patients, taking profits. Here, the patient's interest is not kept in mind."

He said that initially, the service may appear to help patients, but later aggregators start guiding patients to hospitals where they can make bigger profits. Also, the commission that has to be paid to these aggregators squeezes hospitals and that affects the quality of treatment, he added.

"On online platforms, treatments are played out as one-time events. But in reality, surgeries and medical treatments involve preoperative and postoperative care. Good continuous care is essential. Patients have to exercise caution," he said.

The letter, signed by Society president Dr GV Divakar and secretary Dr Elankumaran P quoted a Section of the Act, which states that a physician shall not give, solicit or receive any gift, gratuity, commission or bonus. They also referred to another Section, which states that a physician shall not use touts or agents for procuring patients. P3

WHY THE PROTEST

The protesters are opposing the Railways' decision to hold the examination in two stages, saying the second stage for final selection is tantamount to cheating those who have cleared the first stage of the computer-based test, whose results were released on Jan 15

A train burns after it was set on fire at Gaya Junction in Bihar on Wednesday | PTI

Angry job aspirants set train on fire in Bihar; Railways suspends exams

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi / Patna

A passenger train was set on fire on Wednesday as hundreds of job aspirants stepped up their protest against the anomalies in the recent tests conducted by the Railway Recruitment Board for Non-Technical Popular Categories (NTPC). As protests entered the third day, an agitated crowd stormed the Gaya Junction, raising slogans, and set fire to the Bhabhua-Patna Inter City Express. Nobody was injured.

The protesters squatted on railway tracks, vandalised property, clashed with security forces and targeted trains, hitting services. In view of the protests, the Railways said it has suspended its NTPC and Level 1 exams. In a bid to calm frayed nerves, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw set up a high-level committee headed by Deepak Peter Gabriel, principal executive director of industrial relations in the ministry, to examine their grievances. Earlier, he ordered the postponement of the second stage of computer-based test of NTPC, which was slated to start from February 15 across India.

He also requested the job aspirants not to destroy public property. He said more than one crore people applied for 35,281 vacancies notified under the NTPC. "The Railways shortlisted 7,05,446 candidates for the second stage of computer-based test," the miniter added.

Wednesday's incident was a sequel to violent protests started in Patna, Bhojpur, Muzaffarpur, Buxar, Nalanda, Sitamarhi and other districts in the past three days.

In Uttar Pradesh, police arrested two persons and lodged a case against 1,000 unidentified people for allegedly rioting and blocking the train tracks.

BANNERGHATTA MAY HAVE THREE TIGERS

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

HERE is a piece of news that is exciting, but is also worrying. As per internal assessments and camera trap details, more than one tiger has been sighted in the Bannerghatta National Park (BNP). The fragmented habitat, which is at the tip of Western Ghats, connects Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) and Tamil Nadu forest patches. It also abuts Bengaluru, a cosmopolitan and rapidly growing city.

"The first reported sighting of a wild tiger here was in 2015. Since then, it has been a wandering male. But now in the camera traps, two more tigers have been sighted. A healthy population of tigers has also been noticed in areas connecting CWS and BNP. In CWS, around 12 tigers have been recorded," said a senior official of the forest department.

It shows that if a habitat is left untouched, it bounces back and becomes home for the striped cats, the official added.

Since 2014, experts and conservationists have pointed out that the two forest patches are ideal potential spaces for tiger population and have stressed on effective conservation methods. But with rapid urbanisation, they face the threat of encroachment. Multiple cases of man-elephant conflicts and leopard sightings have been reported from the fringes of these patches.

BNP, especially, faces the threat of mining and encroachment for residential layout formation.

The state government has proposed to denotify and redefine the BNP buffer zone to make way for residential areas and industrialisation. CWS, meanwhile, could soon see a habitat change with the Mekedatu project.

CONTINUED ON: P5

MYSORE SILK

Saree burnt, consumer court tells shop to pay ex-judge's wife

YATHIRAJU @ Bengaluru

IF it is the saree of a judge's wife that you are servicing, you better take care. Here is a case of a consumer court ordering an outlet stitching saree borders to pay the full price of an expensive Mysore Silk saree and also bear the cost of damages and litigation expenses.

The Consumer Commission, in its recent order, directed the shop to compensate a retired district judge and his wife for damaging the saree that was given for stitching the border.

The Commission directed NC Divya of 'Divena Couture' to pay Rs 31,975 in total to retired District and Sessions Judge MS Evani and his wife Mangala Evani, including Rs 21,975, which is the cost of the saree, Rs 5,000 towards damages and Rs 5,000 for litigation expenses.

The judge and his wife produced the receipt of Rs 21,975 paid for the saree in August 2019, and also an acknowledgment from the shop that the saree and other clothes were received for stitching in October 2019.

But Divya contended that she received the silk saree from the complainants and as she was busy, kept it with other clothes without opening it.

When it was taken out for stitching the border, two burns were noticed and the staff from the shop immediately informed Mangala.

The Commission noted that it is the bounden duty of Divya to check the condition of the material received for stitching, and not looking into the damages at that time amounted to negligence on her part.

CONTINUED ON: P5

VAX PRICES

MAY BE CAPPED

The price of Covishield and Covaxin, which are expected to soon get regular market approval, is likely to be capped at Rs 275 per dose plus an additional service charge of Rs 150, sources said. P8

POMP AND PAGEANTRY

Indian Army's Rajput Regiment, wearing the uniform of 1950 and carrying .303 rifle, during the Republic Day parade in New Delhi on Wednesday; and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the National War Memorial | SHEKHAR YADAV

Governor lauds govt over handling Covid-19

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

COVID management and measures taken to contain the pandemic took the centre stage at the Republic Day celebrations in the city on Wednesday.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, after unfurling the National Flag at Manekshaw Parade Grounds, said, "We are now facing the third wave. We should handle the situation with total seriousness and there is no room for negligence. The mantra of mask and social distancing must continue."

He appreciated the efforts of the state government in managing the Covid situation efficiently. Gehlot said the crisis has been used as an opportunity to build strengths and create additional infrastructure in the health sector.

He congratulated the government for developing and utilising technology in handling the pandemic through the formation of state war rooms, which recently received a national award. He commended medical professionals and other departments for managing the pandemic. P4

EXPRESS READ

Air India may be handed over to Tata Group today

New Delhi: The Centre is likely to hand over Air India to the Tata Group on Thursday, nearly 69 years after it was taken from the conglomerate, officials said. With this, Air India will be the third airline brand in the stable of the Tatas.

FIR filed against Google, its CEO over copyright

Mumbai: An FIR was registered against Google, its CEO Sundar Pichai and seven others over a film producer's plaint under the Copyright Act. Producer Suneel Darshan alleged that somebody uploaded the film 'Ek Hasina Thi Ek Diwana Tha' on YouTube, without its producers' permission.

Mysuru 'library man' rebuilds his dream, on his own labour

KARTHIK KK @ Mysuru

WITH the government failing to fulfill its promise of rebuilding his library that was gutted last year, 62-year-old daily wage labourer Syed Issaq has erected a shed-like structure on his own at the same place to house books that have been donated by hundreds of people.

As he himself was deprived of education, Issaq did not want others to suffer the same fate and had started the library over a decade ago. He had built the library in a 20x20 sqft space at the corner of a park near his house, spending money from his pocket. He had painstakingly collected over 11,000 books, including 3,000-plus Kannada novels and Bhagavad Gitas. His dream project was reduced to ashes on April 9 when a man walking by had carelessly tossed a cigarette butt.

After *TNIE* published a report about the fire, techie Fathaheen Misbah set up an online fundraiser which garnered a huge response from across the globe and collected nearly Rs 29 lakh within three to four days.

But the state government refunded all the donors and announced that considering the good work done by Issaq, it would rebuild the library. As months passed, there were no signs of any work being started by the Mysuru City Corporation, Mysuru Urban Development Authority, Public Libraries Department or the district administration, even as over 10,000 donated books were waiting to find a place.

Angry with the attitude of officials, Issaq decided to rebuild the library on his own from Rs 4 lakh donated by MLA Zameer Ahmed, Mysuru district incharge minister ST Somashekhar, Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha and a few others. He rebuilt the shed-like structure for his library in 45 days flat. P4

Visitors throng the rebuilt library in Mysuru on Wednesday | UDAYSHANKAR S

NATIONWIDE	JAN 25	JAN 26
Fresh cases	2,55,874	2,85,914
Recoveries	2,67,753	2,99,073
Deaths	614	665

KARNATAKA	JAN 25	JAN 26
Fresh cases	41,400	48,905
Recoveries	53,093	41,699
Deaths	52	39

JAB-O-METER

TAKE YOUR SHOT

January 25
51,64,473 doses

January 26
22,10,813 doses

TOTAL DOSES
1,63,49,62,688

ALMANAC TODAY
• **Thursday :** 27/01/2022 • **Year:** Plava • **Ayana:** Dakshinayana
• **Ritu:** Himantha • **Masa:** Pushya • **Paksha:** Krishna • **Tithi:** Dasami 10.46 pm
• **Nakshatra:** Anuradha 4.16 am • Moon in Dhanur Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm
• **Gulikakala:** 09:00 am to 10:30 am • **Yamaganda:** 03:00 am to 04:30 am

WEATHER
MIN 22°C | MAX 29°C
FORECAST
Broken clouds

Sunrise 6.46 am
Sunset 6.18 pm
Moonrise 1.37 am
Moonset 1.25 pm

STREAMLINING

CISF pushes for 'one hand baggage' rule

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

TO minimise delays and congestion at screening points in airports, which inconveniences all passengers, the Central Industrial Security Force has urged all airports and airlines to ensure that no passenger is permitted to carry more than one hand baggage. This is apart from certain specified listed items, including ladies handbag.

A communication from the office of the Additional Director General, Airport Sector, CISF, to the Director General of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, dated January 19, points out that the average passenger carries two to three handbags to the screening point.

"All airlines may be directed suitably to inform passengers and to display 'one handbag rule' on their tickets/boarding passes very conspicuously," it said. Airlines may be made responsible and depute staff to guide passengers, check and verify their handbag status before allowing the passengers for pre-embarkation security checks," the letter added.

Airport operators are instructed to place banners, boards, standees highlighting the 'One handbag rule' near check-in counters, and at vantage locations in airports to sensitise passengers. "If required, they have an option to switch their extra handbags to registered baggage," it added.

Horamavu to dump cylinders, gets gas on tap

GAIL has completed pipeline work; Vignan Nagar, Ramamurthy Nagar in line next

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru:

PEOPLE across the city keenly await the supply of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to their homes, as it is set to cut expenses incurred on gas bills by nearly 40 per cent. However, various reasons are delaying the supply of gas to kitchens across Bengaluru, with Horamavu ward finally getting it two years after pipes were laid by the Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL).

Since last week, over 400 houses in Bank Avenue and Trinity Enclave in the ward have begun using PNG for cooking, after the service was launched here formally on January 17. It has been quite a wait for all of them.

Among the relieved families is that of Kochu Shankar, a resident here. "I used to spend Rs 1,000 a month for a gas cylinder. This will reduce my expenditure to Rs 600. We have begun using PNG for cooling now. The heating is good and so are its safety aspects, and my wife is happy about it," he says. A few more areas of Horamavu have also been given pipeline connections but the gas is yet to reach their doorsteps, he added.

A senior official at GAIL said that Vignan Nagar and Ramamurthy Nagar would get connections next, with nearly 48 km of gas pipeline being installed here. On reasons for the delay, he said the Medium Density Polyethylene pipelines to supply gas were laid underground in August 2019. "After we completed it, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board carried out pipeline work which resulted in damage to our pipeline. We had to rectify the damages before we could commission the gas supply," he explained. Work at HRBR Layout also got delayed as BBMP started asphalting work, and GAIL couldn't do anything for a year.

The two Covid-19 waves forced them to lose three months in the past two years, due to labour shortage. Giving the progress made by GAIL across the city, the official said that 1,600 km of gas pipeline have been laid. "The actual testing and commissioning of gas has been done for nearly 45,000 homes. We hope to supply gas to another 1.2 lakh houses by May," he said.

Piped natural gas reached the kitchens in Horamavu last week

DAY OF CELEBRATIONS

Various contingents before the march past during the 73rd Republic Day celebrations at Manekshaw Parade Grounds on Wednesday. Right: Artist Akshay Jalihal gives finishing touches to a Rangoli portrait of freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at the Kempegowda Metro Station in Bengaluru | ASHISHKRISHNA HP, VINOD KUMAR T

Govt agencies passing buck on pending cases: Homebuyers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

RESPONDING to statements by government officials and housing minister regarding complaints of fleecing against builders and promoters, home buyers alleged that authorities are shifting responsibilities without offering a solution.

The Karnataka Home Buyers' Forum have got in touch with various departments, including the Prime Minister's and Chief Minister's offices, and members had also approached Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA) to get updates on pending cases and sought advice regarding expediting them.

Recently, district magistrate J Manjunath stated that around 4,000 cases, including RERA-related ones, are pending before the Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner's court which, according to government data, would take around 10 years to clear. The home buyers, who have waited for decades to resolve the issue, are distraught.

They said that Housing Minister V Somanna's statement that norms would be tightened to prevent middle-class families from being cheated while purchasing houses showed that he is unaware of the ground reality. He had also said that K-RERA is disposing of cases frequently, which contradicts the statement made by Manjunath, they added.

They highlighted that K-RERA chairman Kishore Chandra had put the onus on respective DCs to execute the orders issued by the regulatory authority and that the cases are being heard on a daily basis, but would take time to sort out.

"We are disappointed to hear conflicting statements from the housing department, DC and K-RERA, passing the responsibility from one department to another," Dhananjaya Padmanabhachar, a member of the forum, said.

The forum has decided to hold live online meetings every day, titled 'Home Dhoka', discussing problems of individual home buyers across Karnataka. The buyers are disappointed with a reply from the CMO, which advised them to follow up with the housing department. "We complained to the CMO because the housing department was not doing its job," Padmanabhachar said.

'Use advanced methods to collect tax'

BENGALURU: All necessary steps should be taken, and advanced methods employed for property tax collection, and the target must be reached in BBMP limits, BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta said here on Wednesday.

Holding a virtual meeting with revenue officials on property tax collection, Gupta said notices should be issued to citizens who have not paid property tax. He instructed officials to ensure that properties which are not yet included under tax slab, are immediately brought into the tax net. "If advanced methods are required for tax collection, necessary steps should be taken," he said.

"In the current year, a target of Rs 4,000 crore has been set. Property tax of Rs 2,667.77 crore has been collected so far ," he said. ENS

ZONE WISE PROPERTY TAX COLLECTION AS ON 25-1-2022 (IN ₹CRORES)

Yelahanka	265.98
Mahadevapura	683.07
Dasarahalli	73.78
R R Nagar	182.00
Bommanahalli	285.04
West	272.11
South	398.54
East	507.26
Total	2667.77

KERE HABBA DISCUSSION FLAGS CONSTRUCTION PERIL

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

On Republic Day, the Kere Habba (lake festival) of Yelahanka-Puttenahalli Lake was held virtually after a hiatus of two years due to the pandemic and contrary to the conventional practice of holding it physically where citizens, ornithologists, experts and others gather to discuss the importance of water bodies and measures to protect them.

One of the most sought-after festivals to count and observe the presence of birds at the first Bird Conservation Reserve-Puttenahalli Lake, only a handful of research students was present, taking notes regarding the condition and biodiversity of the two water bodies. They also conducted a dragonfly survey.

During the discussion, one of the vital issues was the concretisation of the wetlands connecting the two water bodies. The members of Yelahanka Puttenahalli Lake and Bird Conservation Trust and residents, who organised the festival, expressed their concerns over government bodies' apathy towards lake conservation. They pointed out: "The natural wetland system between the two lakes is now being taken over and concretised, the impact of which can already be seen in the water quality."

Soumya N Dayakar, joint managing trustee of the Trust, said that the inflow side of the wetland has been taken over for works, but it is still open. However, construction can happen any time soon and then it will be closed.

At the meeting, the plans for the next five years were also discussed and one of the highlights was fencing the lake to prevent roadside vendors from stalls on Doddaballapur Road and throwing garbage into the lake. They also discussed raising funds for lake protection. Officials from the forest department also participated in the event to share their experiences on water conservation and steps to improve the bird conservation habitat.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

27th January: I am sure you know that astrology is linked to numerology. Often this is for sound astronomical reasons. For example, in ancient times we had seven planets, the world was surrounded by seven mountains and humanity was taught wisdom by seven wise men. In other words, it's a good, optimistic, number!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You're looking for more respect - naturally enough. You may have been pinning your hopes on developments in your career, or in whatever other area guarantees your public status, yet the chances are temporarily receding. You may need to wait for another few months.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
You may make a clean sweep if family and domestic improvements are on the agenda, and be sure that relatives are in no doubt as to your true intentions. It's possible that someone is about to let you down. That should give you good reason to have a back-up plan.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
It's definitely time to get out and about and not worry too much about what other people are doing. You may hear news that affects plans to join in a creative and enjoyable activity, so don't hang around! The quicker you get going, the sooner you'll reap the rewards.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Some of you are much more affected by current tensions than others, but all of you should stay alive to possibilities that you'd normally ignore or rule out of order. Some plans may need reconsidering, but others should take care of themselves. Your job is to take each case on its own merits.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You seem to be more concerned with public life than with private affairs. Career developments you thought were finished with long ago may require just a little more attention over coming weeks. In any event, it will be pleasant to go over old ground and return to former habits.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
The current planetary pattern is excellent for plans for the future, although it may be a wrench when it comes to saying goodbye to people, places and opinions from the past. Above all, play it safe with money. After all, you don't want someone else to benefit at your expense.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
At every moment you are taking decisions which affect your future. Whether this is an enjoyable time or not will depend entirely on how confident you are in your ability to cope with sudden changes of plan, and how ready you are to be thrown back on your own resources.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Over the next few days, the seeds will be sown that will lead to dramatically-changed circumstances over the coming months. Overseas contacts and foreign connections seem to be important, but you're not yet sure why this is so. Hopefully all will become clear in a couple of weeks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
First-rate business plans are causing some excitement, no matter how small the financial outlay. Yet it's absolutely vital that you retain control over even the most insignificant details, otherwise you'll come unstuck. That would be a shame, especially after all the effort you've put in.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
One major issue that is conf-using matters in your relationships, concerns your need for independence and your reluctance to give in to people who are trying to tie you down. But there's no need for a confront-ation. If you explain to partners what you need, then you might find they are surprisingly adaptable - even relieved!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You should let your ambitions loose. Everyone should have their chance to sit at the top table, and now is your turn to grab a little of the limelight, so please don't hold back or give in to a lack of confidence. If you are hit by the occasional doubt, then summon expert assistance.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
So much that's important is taking place behind the scenes. The air is thick with conspiracies, but you'll be unable to keep anything secret for long. You may be encouraged to take a completely different approach at work from what is expected of you or considered normal.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

I HATE TO SOUND LIKE A BROKEN RECORD, BUT...GET HOME ON TIME TONIGHT!
UH...
OKAY, DADDY
WHAT'S A BROKEN RECORD?
I THINK IT'S WHAT DADDY'S GENERATION CALLS "VINYL"
MAYBE YOU SHOULD'VE SAID "SKIPPING CD" OR "BOOMERANG VIDEO"
YEAH, MAYBE

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

SU DO KU

Medium: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

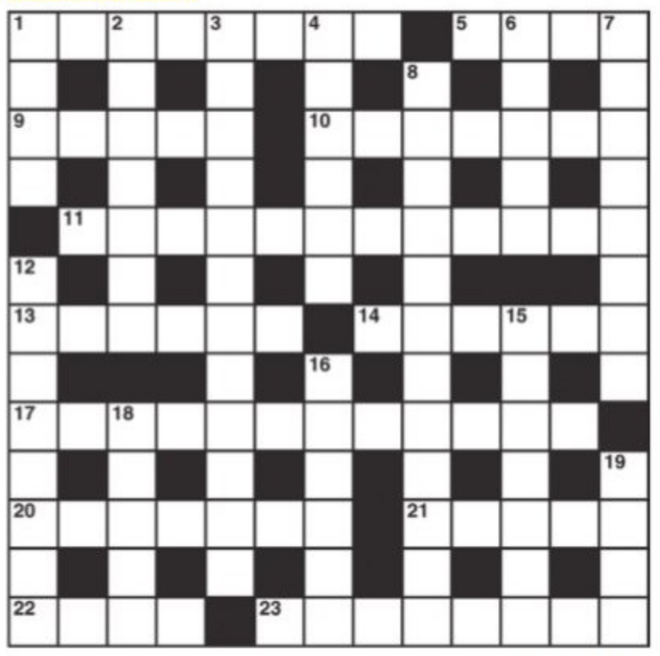
■ Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

	8	7			1			
	2	5		3		7	1	
4	1					3		
	4	9	3	6		2		
		3		1	9	6	4	
		4					6	2
	3	2		4		1	8	
			1			4	5	

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

1	8	9	3	5	6	7	2	4
6	4	5	7	1	2	8	3	9
3	2	7	4	8	9	5	6	1
2	7	1	9	4	5	3	8	6
9	5	4	6	3	8	2	1	7
8	3	6	2	7	1	4	9	5
4	9	3	1	2	7	6	5	8
7	6	8	5	9	3	1	4	2
5	1	2	8	6	4	9	7	3

CROSS WORD



ACROSS
1 Very hot tip Carol made a hash of (8)
5 Stay and finish (4)
9 Unsuitable description of those in poor health (5)
10 A bit of soup? (7)
11 Buyer of an electrical fan? (4,8)
13 Stay to put mother in control (6)
14 Wrongly blamed for the uproar (6)
17 One's first address (6,6)
20 Position right for a military leader (7)
21 Instant cereal after tea say? (5)
22 Lear deranged and demoted (4)
23 Elemental structure of the dog Henry (8)

DOWN
1 Soundly instructed to get tight (4)
2 Not doing well so removed from the bench (3,4)
3 One needs it to understand information (12)
4 Make profit from a shipping company, we hear (6)
6 Image to carry on the first of March (5)
7 Central American country holds an alternative view (8)
8 Such a change maybe on the gambler's behalf (3,3,6)
12 Plain words about a border flower (8)
15 Seeking to taste defeat (7)
16 Bird gets so upset over victim (6)
18 Conclude there's no getting away from Hades (5)
19 Noticed to be seven minus five (4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Hour hands, 8 Tenor, 9 Egality, 10 Writhe, 11 Static, 12 Redeemer, 15 Regattas, 18 Theism, 20 Hangar, 21 One-step, 22 Niece, 23 Dust storm.

Down: 2 Ought, 3 Relate, 4 Autocrat, 5 Starve, 6 Anatomy, 7 Green room, 11 Searching, 13 Distinct, 14 Agonies, 16 Traced, 17 Tea set, 19 Sheer.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CRPHE

VAAUG

RONLMA

RENOYR

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The kick is no good.
Are you kidding me?
Another round?
Nooooo!
Ugh! How could he miss that?
11 30
THE SPORTS BAR WAS FULL OF ADULT MALES, AFTER THEIR TEAM LOST, THE BAR WAS FULL OF ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

Print your answer here:

" " " "

ANSWERS TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S **Jumbles:**
THUMB DOOZY VOYAGE RAISIN
ANSWER: When offered roles in a surfing movie, Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze - GOT ON BOARD

10 AEFI deaths not due to jab, says report; experts differ

Ministry of Health says 'lack of evidence, missing info, deaths coincidental'

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

THE Ministry of Health & Family Welfare's Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI) causality assessment reports on analyses into the 10 post-vaccination deaths occurring in Karnataka between January 16 and November, 2021, have concluded that none of these fatalities were due to the vaccine.

Yet, about one of the deaths, the reports mention "lack of evidence" due to "missing crucial information", while about another, it mentions existing "plausibility" for the vaccine causing an acute stroke with severe thrombocytopenia -- a condition in which a fall in blood platelets causes bleeding -- but still classified it as "temporal relationship is consistent but there is insufficient definitive evidence for vaccine causing the event". About a third death, the reports marked it as "indeterminate", referring to reactions occurring soon after taking the vaccination but without definitive evidence in current literature/clinical trial data that it could have been caused due to the vaccine.

The seven other deaths were marked as coincidental, placing them under a category of "underlying or emerging condition or conditions caused by exposure to something other than the vaccine", like a 43-year-old man from Ballari, who took the vaccine on January 16, 2021. His death was marked as coincidental, and the justification by the National AEFI Committee read: "Acute myocardial infarction with underlying comorbidities – diabetes mellitus and hypertension with probable chronic lung infection."

These 10 deaths (eight men and two women) were part of a total of 38 AEFI cases (34 due to Covishield, four due to Covaxin) reported across the state in the studied period. The remaining 28 patients had been hospitalised, treated and discharged on recovery.

The causality assessment reports -- which TNIE has in its possession -- were discussed and approved by the National AEFI Committee, but experts have raised questions about the system of observation, data reporting on AEFI cases and lack of concrete evidence in deciding whether or not vaccines had caused the deaths.

Eminent virologist Dr T Jacob John said the quality of diagnosis of deaths is questionable in India and hence, diagnosis of AEFI cannot be believed as well.

"The system is not good enough to detect vaccine-related AEFIs. Ideally, the centre that is vaccinating people must be told that the beneficiary must be under their watch for the next 30 days. People do not know where to go if they develop reactions within this period. They go to a known doctor or hospital, where no diagnosis is done to find any link with the vaccine. They don't check for blood clotting or other disease known to occur post taking the Covid-19 vaccine."

He said no postmortem is done in cases of death, and inadequate information is sent from the states to the National AEFI Committee. The committee comes to conclusions based on what is sent to them, making it difficult to assign any causality to the vaccines. Proper diagnosis at the time of AEFI can help prevent death, Dr John said, adding that there is a bias in India to look for evidence not related to the vaccine.

AEFI CASES AND DEATHS IN K'TAKA

10

28 Patients hospitalised and recovered

28 CASES DISCHARGED

Of the remaining 28 cases which were treated and discharged on recovery, six reported vaccine product related reactions, including allergy, fever with fainting and anaphylaxis, and six others reported immunisation anxiety-related reactions

The 28 include four AEFI cases post taking Covaxin, wherein three cases with comorbidities were marked as coincidental

QUESTIONABLE VAX DEATH CASES

A 69-year-old man from Belagavi died after taking the vaccine on March 15. His death was marked as "unclassifiable", which means events which have been investigated but without enough evidence for assigning a diagnosis due to missing crucial information. The report said the patient suffered from "probable acute coronary syndrome".

A 36-year-old woman in Belagavi died after taking the vaccine on Jan 22. The committee's justification read: "Covid disease is known to lead to thrombocytopenia as well as proinflammatory and prothrombotic state. Biological plausibility exists for vaccine causing acute stroke with severe thrombocytopenia."

A 36-year-old man from Belagavi post taking the vaccine on January 22 was marked as "indeterminate", which referred to reactions soon after vaccination, but with no definitive evidence in current literature/clinical trial data that it could have been caused due to the vaccine.

TRACKING COVID-19

DURATION OF PANDEMIC
1 YEAR, 323 DAYS

CASES REPORTED
Today: **48,905** | Yesterday: **41,400**

TALLY
Today: **36,54,413**
Yesterday: **36,05,508**

DEATHS	DISCHARGES
Today: **39**	Today: **41,699**
Yesterday: **52**	Yesterday: **53,093**

ACTIVE CASES
Today: **3,57,909**
Yesterday: **3,50,742**

POSITIVITY RATE	MORTALITY RATE
Today: **5.98%**	Today: **1.05%**
Yesterday: **5.92%**	Yesterday: **1.07%**

RECOVERY RATE Today: **89.14%** Yesterday: **89.19%**

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES
LAST 24 HOURS

Bengaluru Urban	22,427
Bengaluru Rural	828
Bagalkot	610
Ballari	1,141
Belagavi	791
Bidar	377
Chamarajanagar	917
Chikkaballapur	734
Chikkamagaluru	251
Chitradurga	445
Dakshina Kannada	888
Davanagere	514
Dharwad	1,523
Gadag	318
Hassan	2,016
Haveri	297
Kalaburagi	1,007
Kodagu	939
Kolar	1,547
Koppal	279
Mandya	2,186
Mysuru	2,797
Raichur	276
Ramanagara	187
Shivamogga	444
Tumakuru	2,645
Udupi	1,392
Uttara Kannada	747
Vijayapura	212
Yadgir	170

K'taka to focus on health index ranking

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka government intends to take measures that will improve its ranking on the Niti Aayog health index. In six districts where there is malnutrition -- Bidar, Raichur, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Koppal, Ballari, Vijayapura and Dharwad -- steps will be taken to resolve the problem, Health Minister K Sudhakar said on Wednesday.

He said that 250 model Primary Health Centres (PHC) will be upgraded to world-class levels. He inaugurated the construction of a PHC in Chikkaballapur, which will be spread over 25,000 sqft at a cost of Rs 9 crore, have 24/7 health facility, 12 beds, three doctors, nurses, technicians and Group D workers who will have quarters to live in.

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences has allocated Rs 30 crore to develop PHCs in Mandikal, Peresandra and Dibburu. A super-speciality hospital with 700 beds will be built in Chikkaballapur.

Sudhakar will also discuss with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai about opening a district hospital in Bengaluru Rural, in addition to starting industries to generate employment.

He said that Covid-19 cases are decreasing in Bengaluru, and increasing in other districts. However, hospital admissions are only around 2 per cent, and while Omicron is spreading, it is not causing severe disease. Death rate is low compared to the past two waves, and recovery rate is increasing. As cases are reducing, more restrictions are not needed, he said.

Letter warns of price wars, unhealthy competition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE letter stated that these agents only lead to price wars and unhealthy competition among the fraternity, resulting in decline in quality and loss of camaraderie. They referred to a situation created by one of the platforms, which initially offered free appointment services and later dictated terms, diverting patients to those paying higher premiums.

The Society said doctors must resolve to uphold ethics and prevent non-medical agents from indulging in tactics that tarnish their image and solidarity. "We would like to request members to desist from encouraging and associating with the above online platforms. Those that have associated are requested to rescind the association. In the event that any member is found doing the same, they may be referred to the Medical Council for necessary action," the letter stated.

EXPRESS READ

BBMP chief Gaurav Gupta tests positive

BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta on Wednesday morning took to social media to inform that he had tested positive for Covid-19 late Tuesday evening. He has also requested all those including the staffers who had come in contact with him to get themselves tested at the earliest. Gupta told The New Indian Express that he had an irritable throat and other minor health issues after which he got himself tested. The test showed that he was Covid-positive. He said that he has been under home isolation.Staffers at the head office are now planning a testing camp for the employees.

IDFC First Bank Limited
Formally known as Capital First Limited
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai - 600031. TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 | FAX: +91 44 4564 4022.
Authorized Officer – Mr Raghavendra | Contact Number – 9986659988.

APPENDIX- IV-A [See provision to rule 8 (6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **IDFC First Bank Limited Formally known as Capital First Limited,** will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **16th February 2022**, for recovery of **INR 88,50,000/-** as on due to the **IDFC First Bank Limited** from **1.Mr. Alex Clement Lewis, 2.Mrs. Seema Anitha Pais, 3. M/S DNI Home Theatre.** The Reserve Price will be **INR 70,80,000/-** (Rupees Seventy Lakhs and Eighty Thousand Only) and the Earnest Money Deposit will be **INR 7,08,000/-** (Rupees Seven Lakhs Eight Thousand Only)

DESCRIPTION OF MORTGAGE PROPERTY

1. All The Piece And Parcel Of The Property Situated At Flat No G-06, "G. M. Reddy's Royale, Bearing Survey No. 74/3, Khata No. 1133/1120/1220/74/3, Bellandur Village, Varthurhobli, Bangalore- 560103: Measuring Area 1640 Sq Ft (super Built Up Area), Bounded As Following : **East : Property Belonging To Shamanna, West : Property Retained By Sri Seenappa B.G., North : Outer Ring Road, South : Property Belongings To Sridharam**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **IDFC First Bank Limited** website i.e. **www.idfcfirstbank.com**

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
Formally known as Capital First Limited
Date : 27/01/2022

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank (A Government Of India Undertaking)
ARM Branch – II, 4th Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No.86, M G Road, Bengaluru-560001
Telephone Numbers : 080-25310181, E-mail: cb6298@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
(Under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged /charged to the Canara Bank, **ARM -II Branch Bengaluru** of the possession of which has been taken the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank, **ARM -II Branch Bengaluru** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is" on below mention dates,** basis for recovery of outstanding dues from by below mentioned Borrowers. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit is mentioned below.

Name of the Borrower/Guarantor(s)	Total Liabilities	Details and full description of the property	Reserve Price	1) Earnest Money Deposit 2) Bidding Factor	1) E-Auction Date & Time of Auction 2) Date of Inspection
1. M/s.SDEC Technologies Inc rep. by its Prop. Sri. Elangovan, No.B-102, 2nd Cross, 1st Stage, Peenya II Phase, Peenya, Bangalore - 560058. **2. Sri. Elangovan,** No.121, 4th Cross, Bloomfield Garden, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore 560097. **3. Sri. Rakesh Sharma,** No.731, 6th Main, HMT Layout, 5th Block, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bangalore - 560097.	**Rs.1,25,50,613.84** (Rupees one crore Twenty five lakh fifty thousand six hundred thirteen and eighty four only) as on **20.01.2022,** together with future interest, expenses and costs etc till realization.	All that part and parcel of property bearing no.163 situated at Jarakabandekaval Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk now within the limit of Greater Bangalore City Corporation and the property bearing Khatha no.393, old Khatha no.54/3+53/1A, 1c, 1D and presently 4th Stage, Srinidhi Layout, off-MS Palya-Vidyaranyapura Road, at MS Palya, Jarakabandekaval, Bangalore 560097 measuring East to West 45 feet and from North to South 37+14/2 feet along with a house constructed thereon bounded on the East by site bearing no.162, West by Private property, North by road and South by Private property.	**Rs. 73.08 Lakhs**	1) **Rs.7,30,800/-** 2) **Rs.20,000/-**	1) **28.02.2022 11.30 A M to 12.30 Noon The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before 25.02.2022 - 5.00 pm.** 2)**The property can be inspected on 16.02.2022 between 2.30 pm to 5.00 pm**
Sri.Chandrashekar C, No.102, Vajrahalli, Thalaghattapura Post, Kanakapura Main Road, Bangalore -560062.	**Rs.4,25,06,208.09** (Rupees Four Crore Twenty Five Lakh Six Thousand Two Hundred Eight and Zero Nine Only) as on **20.01.2022** together with future interest.	All that piece and parcel of land and building bearing kaneshumari no.102, Municipal no.102, situated at Vajarahalli village, Thalagattapura Post, Kanakapura Road, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore 560 062 within the limits BBMP, Bangalore measuring East to West :29 feet, North to South: 113 feet, Totaling 3277 sq.ft, bounded on the East by: Property of Kalegowda, West by: Property of Gowramma, North by: Property of Gowramma and South by : Road.	**Rs. 203.31 Lakhs**	1) **Rs.20,33,100/-** 2) **Rs.50,000/-**	1) **28.02.2022 11.30 AM to 12.30 Noon The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before 25.02.2022 - 5.00 pm.** 2)**The property can be inspected on 17.02.2022**
1. M/s.Narayans Punjabi Tandoor, No.683/A, Near Delmia Circle, 2nd Phase, JP Nagar, Bangalore- 560078. **Also at:** No.1173, Shobha Apartment, 24th Main, JP Nagar 6th Phase, Bangalore -560078. **2. Smt.Greeshma Mithun, & 4. Sri.Mithun S Narayan, Nos.2 & 4 at** No.1173, Shobha Apartment, 24th Main, JP Nagar 6th Phase, Bangalore 560078. **3. Smt.Debjani Gosh,** Prop.Raja Shyam Industries, No.1720, 9th Main, Hebbal II stage, Mysore 570017.	**Rs.5,97,32,273/-** (Rupees five crore ninety seven lakhs Thirty Two thousand Two hundred seventy three only) as on **20.01.2022** together with future interest.	All that part and parcel of property at Plot no.277-E in Hebbal Industrial Area situated in Sy.no.355 of Hebbal Village, Kasaba Hobli, Mysore Taluk and District measuring 1019 sq.meters or thereabouts together with building thereon and bounded on the East by KIADB Road, West by Plot no.278-B, North by Plot no.277-D and South by Plot no.277-F.	**Rs. 119.31 Lakhs**	1) **Rs.11,93,100/-** 2) **Rs.20,000/-**	1) **28.02.2022 11.30 AM to 12.30 Noon The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before 25.02.2022 - 5.00 pm.** 2)**The property can be inspected on 17.02.2022**
(1) M/s. Kalyanpur Distributors A-III /2, Datta Prasad CHS Ltd No 260,10th Main, Malleswaram, **Bangalore 560003. (2) Ravikiran R Kalyanpur** A-III /2, Datta Prasad CHS Ltd No 260,10th Main, Malleswaram, **Bangalore 560003 (3) Mrs Srikala R Kalyanpur** A-III /2, Datta Prasad CHS Ltd No 260,10th Main,Malleswaram, **Bangalore 560003 (4) Mrs. Nirmala R Kalyanpur,** A-III /2, Datta Prasad CHS Ltd No 260,10th Main, Malleswaram, Bangalore 560003. **(5) Mr. R S Kalyanpur** A-III /2, Datta Prasad CHS Ltd No 260,10th Main, Malleswaram, Bangalore 560003.	**Rs.9,59,84,175/-** (Rupees Nine crores fifty nine lakhs Eighty Four thousand one hundred and seventy five only)including costs and interest as on **24.01.2022** together with future interest	All that part and parcel of Residential flat bearing no.A-III/2 measuring 1250 sq.ft. built up area at ground floor with one covered car parking situated in Dutta Prasad Co-operative Society Limited at No.260, 10th Main Road, Malleswaram, Bangalore 560003 and bounded on the East by Mysore Mill Quarters, West by 10th Main Road, North by 12th cross Road and South by Mysore Mills Guest House.	**Rs. 68.85 Lakhs**	1) **Rs.6,88,500/-** 2) **Rs.30,000/-**	1) **15.02.2022 11.30 AM to 12.30 Noon The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before 11.02.2022 - 5.00 pm.** 2) **The properties can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer, on any working day during office hours.**
M/s. Suraj Floritech rep. by its Proprietor Sri.K V Sathyaprakash, No.118/6, 16th cross, 1st block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore -560010. **Also at:** Kathihosahalli Village, Doddabelavangala Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk. Bangalore Rural District.	**Rs.3,67,65,333/-** (Rupees Three Crore Sixty Seven Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Three Only) as on **24.01.2022** with future interest, cost and expenses etc.	All that piece and parcel of property with building thereon bearing no.33 & 38, Katha no.486, 487 & 488 situated at ward No.30, Narasimha Swamy Layout, Laggere, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore 560086 measuring to an extent of 2680 sq.ft. bounded on the East by Road, West by Government Property, North by Site No.34 & 37 and South by Site No.32 & 39.	**Rs. 2,43,00,000/-**	1) **Rs.24,30,000/-** 2) **Rs.50,000/-**	1) **28.02.2022 11.30 AM to 12.30 Noon The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before 25.02.2022 - 5.00 pm.** 2)**The property can be inspected on 17.02.2022 between 2.30 pm to 5.00 pm**
1.Sri.M Prashanth, Proprietor M/s Royal Stitch Designs No.8,Bhavani Nilaya,1st Main, 5th Block, KP West, Bangalore-560020 **Alsoat:** No.57,Next to Gurupriya Kalyana Mandap,1st Main, Karekallu,Kamakshipalaya, Bangalore-79 **2.Sri.J Shankar N** No.80/1,8th Main,6th Phase,1st Stage,West of Chord Road, Bangalore-560010	**Rs.1,37,04,626/-** (Rupees Onecrore Thirty SevenLlakhs Four ThousandSix Hundredand Twenty Six Only) including costs and interestas on **24.01.2022** together with future interest.	All that piece and parcel of the factory shed constructedinKhatano401,Houselistno.36(old)new no.408 present BBMP no 94, situated at Kamakshi palya Village, Sane guruvanahalli Dhakle, Bangalore North taluk between NHCS Layout and Ashtagrama Layout presently at 2nd Main, Kamakshipalya, Bangalore having PID no 18-41-94 within ward no. 18 of Kamakshipalya ward of BBMP together with an existing AC sheet roof building of one square measuring East to West 35 feet and North to South 35 feet bounded on theEastby:Propertybearinghouse list no 11(old),West by road, North by house list no 35(old) and South by: House list bearing old no.37.	**Rs. 35.00 Lakhs**	1) **Rs.3,50,000/-** 2) **Rs.25,000/-**	1) **28.02.2022 11.30 AM to 12.30 Noon The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before 25.02.2022 - 5.00 pm.** 2)**The property can be inspected on 17.02.2022**

Other terms and conditions: (a) Auction/bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website **https://www.indianbankseauction.com.** Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings. **(b)** The property can be inspected on above mentioned the date & time **(c)** The property will be sold for the price which is more than the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process. **(d)** EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited by way of DD favouring Authorised officer, Canara Bank, ARM Branch II, Bangalore OR through online (RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer) to credit the account number **7952296000001, Canara Bank, RO, Bangalore RTGS/NEFT CODE CNRB0007952 on or before 25.02.2022 5.00 p.m. (e)** Intending bidders shall hold a valid digital signature certificate and e-mail address. For details with regard to digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s.Canbank Computer Services Ltd, Bangalore - e-mail: eauction@ccsl.co.in Contact Persons & Numbers:- Mr. Pakhare DD/Mr.Ramesh T H – 9480691777 & 8553643144. (f)** After payment of the EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/details on or before **25.02.2022 - 5.00 PM, to Canara Bank, ARM Branch II Bangalore** by hand or by email. (i) Demand Draft/Pay order towards EMD amount. If paid through RTGS/NEFT, acknowledgement receipt thereof with UTR No. (ii) Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount. (iii) Bidders Name. Contact No. Address, E Mail Id. (iv) Bidder's A/c details for online refund of EMD. **(g)**The intending bidders should register their names at service provider M/s.Canbank Computer Services Ltd, Bangalore and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider M/s.Canbank Computer Services Ltd, Bangalore - **e- mail: eauction@ccsl.co.in** Contact Persons & Numbers:- **Mr.Pakhare DD/Mr.Ramesh T H – 9480691777 & 8553643144. (h)** EMD deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them. The EMD shall not carry any interest. **(i)** Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiplies of amount as mention above The bidder who submits the highest bid (above the Reserve price) on closure of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor. **(j)** The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorised Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again. **(k)** For sale proceeds of Rs.50 lacs (Rupees Fifty lacs) and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at the applicable rate on the Sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the Bank. **(l)** All charges for conveyance, stamp duty/GST, registration charges, tax arrears, other charges, dues etc., as applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only. **(m)** Authorised Officer reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof.

n) In case there are bidders who do not have access to the internet but interested in participating the e-auction, they can approach concerned Circle ofice or **Canara Bank**, ARM branch II who, as a facilitating centre, shall make necessary arrangements. **(o)** With condition for only **M/s Kalyanpur Distributos.** The intending bidders shall comply with the provisions of the **Karnataka State Co-operative Societies Act and the byelaws of Datta Prasad Housing Co-operative Society**. In this regard indenting bidders are advised to have a discussion with the office bearers of **Datta Prasad Housing Co-operative Society** and get satisfied as regards eligibility norms before submitting the bid. **(p)** For further details contact **Mandari Yadaiah, Chief Manager, Canara Bank, ARM Branch-2- (9483544116-080-25310181) e-mail id- cb6298@canarabank.com or the service provider M/s.Canbank Computer Services Ltd, Bangalore - e- mail:eauction@ccsl.co.in Contact Persons & Numbers:- Mr. Pakhare DD/Mr.Ramesh T H – 9480691777 & 8553643144.**

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION / CAUTION: Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder or vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back–up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully.

Date : 25.01.2022
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised officer
Canara Bank

In response to Bengaluru Central MP PC Mohan's suggestion to name some of the roads in Bengaluru after freedom fighters, the CM said a suitable decision will be taken in this regard

GRAMA ONE TO INSTILL FAITH IN SYSTEM: CM

Centres to come up in all dists by March-end

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday directed government officials to implement the Grama One initiative effectively and provide all government services under one roof in rural areas. "People have lost faith in the system and officials should work hard so that this initiative restores people's faith," the CM said.

Urging the officials to make the initiative simple and people-friendly, Bommai said the Deputy Commissioners have to consider it as a top priority programme of the government. Grama One was launched in 3,024 gram panchayats in 12 districts on Wednesday.

The CM said Grama One centres will be started in all districts by March-end. "I will personally monitor this and put in efforts to making it successful. I will be in touch with the operators, tahsildar and DCs," he told reporters after launching the initiative.

Stressing on monitoring, the CM said technical and legal training will be given to those who run these centres. A nodal officer will be deputed at every tahsildar office to monitor the system. The tahsildar and DC will be in touch with e-governance officers and ensure free flow of information and issuance of certificates, he said.

"This will be a big revolution. Government at the people's doorstep is the main purpose of this initiative. If this is successful, people will have faith in the system. This is nothing but empowering people," he added.

"This is a technologically-driven initiative. We have seen people waiting outside the tahsildar's office to avail various certificates. This often leads to influence of middlemen and corruption. Through Grama One, the State Government has made an attempt to help people get many certificates, including Income Tax, caste, pension and ration card among others at these centres," the CM said.

The government wants to introduce 100 services and, to begin with, about 25 services have been added. "Earlier, we had launched the initiative in four districts as a pilot project where more than six lakh people availed the services. Now it has been extended to 3,026 gram panchayats in 12 districts," he added.

Haripprasad named Oppn leader in Council

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Congress in the state seems to have given final shape to its 'collective leadership' formula ahead of the 2023 Assembly election, with the appointment of B K Haripprasad, a well-known leader from the backward Ediga community, as Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council.

The party has been emphasising on collective leadership for a long time with Siddaramaiah, a Kuruba, as legislature party leader, D K Shivakumar, a Vokkaliga, as state party president, M B Patil, a Lingayat, as chairman of the campaign committee and now Haripprasad as Opposition leader in the Council.

One faction in the Congress had openly favoured a Muslim as Leader of the Opposition in the Council and the frontrunners were C M Ibrahim and Nazir Ahmed. While Ibrahim was considered to be too controversial, given his proximity with the JDS, and Nazeer Ahmed's lack of oratory skills, former AICC General Secretary and party loyalist Haripprasad was well ahead in the race.

B K Haripprasad

K Govindaraj

Prakash Rathod

Haripprasad had taken a strong stand with regard to the Narayana Guru tableau being rejected by the Union Government for the third time in a row. A former four-term Rajya Sabha MP, he was AICC General Secretary in 16 states in organisational capacities. He brings vast experience, steadfast loyalty and strong oratorical skills.

Meanwhile, former cricketer Prakash Rathod (SC) has been chosen as Chief Whip and K Govindaraj, a Vokkaliga, will be deputy leader of the Opposition in the Council. The post of Opposition Leader and Chief Whip are equivalent to cabinet rank.

Earlier, S R Patil was Leader of the Opposition in the Council while Narayanswamy was Chief Whip. Both completed their terms and retired on January 5.

POLITICAL THEATRE

CM TRASHES TALK ON LEADERSHIP CHANGE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday yet again rubbished all speculation over change of leadership in the state. Responding to reports in a section of the media about a change of guard before the 2023 Assembly polls, the CM brushed them aside as untrue.

BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel had also stated that there is no question of leadership change in the state. "Bommai will complete his term as CM till 2023 and we will face polls under his leadership," he added.

Meanwhile, referring to Opposition leader Siddaramaiah's claim on BJP leaders joining the Congress, Bommai said he is lying and making statements without any proof. Claiming that Siddaramaiah is competing with KPCC president D K Shivakumar in making such statements, only to prove his existence in the party, Bommai said, "Forget people from our party joining theirs, due to the clashes between the two, other Congress leaders will join our party."

The CM also said that the polls in five states will show Congress its place as it will lose its seats and become irrelevant. "This will have an impact on the state Congress and that is why they are making such statements," he insisted.

Revenue Minister R Ashoka too said that Congress leaders are spreading rumours about BJP leaders quitting the party and joining the Congress. He too stressed that Bommai will complete the remaining term and the party will go to polls under his leadership.

"Earlier, Siddaramaiah had said that he will never allow anyone to rejoin Congress. Now, I wonder why he is making such statements. It is certain that no one is deserting the BJP and joining Congress. These are rumours spread by the Congress to divert attention as they are on the backfoot after the padayatra had to be abandoned", he said.

On not being given charge of any district, Ashoka said, "The CM had spoken to me before the allocation. I had voluntarily given up charge of Bengaluru Urban district when B S Yediyurappa was CM. I have a lot of work to do in the Revenue Department and I am currently focusing on that."

'Ready for civic body polls'

Two days after ministers were given charge of districts, with the CM retaining responsibility of Bengaluru district, he said they are ready for the BBMP Polls. Taking part in a meeting of office-bearers at the party office along with state president Nalin Kumar Kateel on Wednesday, Bommai said a meeting was held over two days with Bengaluru district office-bearers since Tuesday. "We discussed various issues including strengthening party from the booth and ward level and improving coordination between party and booth-level members," he said Bommai said the BJP is strong in Bengaluru Urban as they have more number of MLAs, three MPs and also had more councillors in the previous BBMP council. "Keeping all these factors in mind, we are preparing for the civic body polls," he said.

MLAs who left Cong will not return: Patil

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Chitradurga

THE legislators who defected from the Congress to the BJP will not return to the former party as it is a matter of self respect, said Agriculture Minister **B C Patil** on Wednesday.

"The BJP has given us everything. We are in a good position here. There is no question of us returning to the Congress. However, I will myself welcome Congress leader Siddaramaiah if he chooses to join the BJP," he told reporters, and added that there was a power tussle between Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D K Shivakumar.

Responding to the statement of BJP leader Basanagouda Patil Yatnal that a BJP MLA was thinking about joining the Congress, Patil asked him to divulge the name of the legislator instead of making vague statements.

State govt handled flood situation well, says Guv

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

GOVERNOR Thaawarchand Gehlot said the government has tackled the flood situation efficiently, especially in North Karnataka. He made a special mention of work done in controlling pollution at Bellandur and Varthur lakes and water distillation units in Koramanagala and Challaghatta valleys.

Because of the pandemic, citizens were not allowed to participate in the celebrations, but virtual viewing was organised. The government had invited only 200 guests to be present physically at the venue. The police department had made special security arrangements around the parade grounds. Apart from installing CCTVs, the police had also deployed special protection teams.

All the guests were allowed only after producing their vaccination details. Those participating in the parade were tested for Covid two days earlier.

Ramesh Jarkiholi can lure Cong MLAs to BJP: Karjol

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

FORMER minister and Gokak MLA Ramesh Jarkiholi is an efficient leader and has the capacity to bring Congress MLAs into the BJP fold, said Water Resources Minister Govind Karjol on Wednesday.

Speaking to media persons in Belagavi, Karjol said, "Ramesh Jarkiholi is a senior and experienced politician.

He has friends in the Congress. He has the power to bring them into the BJP, and this cannot be denied."

When asked about KPCC chief D K Shivakumar and Congress Legislature Party chief Siddaramaiah's statement that some BJP legislators were in touch with them, he said the Congress leaders are living in an illusionary world.

"Not a single legislator from the BJP will quit the party to join the Congress. Their statement is far from the truth," he said, and added that there was no factionalism in the BJP in Belagavi. All are united and working for the party, he noted.

When asked why the Belagavi City Corporation was yet to get a mayor and deputy mayor even after four months, he said, "The mayoral post is reserved for women and deputy mayor for a backward class women as per the reservation roster. The elections will be held as per the instructions of the secretary to the Urban Development Department once the dates are announced."

Transport reform report by March-end

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE state-owned road transport corporations, including the KSRTC, NWKRTC, KKRTC and BMTC, are projected to post combined losses of Rs 2,130 crore in one year till the end of March this year, according to experts. With the challenges thrown up by the Covid-19 pandemic adding to the woes of the transport utilities, the state government had constituted a one-man committee, headed by retired IAS officer M R Srinivas Murthy, to look into how they can ensure profitability.

Speaking to TNIE, Srinivas Murthy said he has called for public responses till January 31. He said he has held meetings with many people in nearly a month and plans to get a report ready by March 28 or earlier, by when the three-month tenure of the committee ends. "Various suggestions have been coming and we will consider them," he said.

KSRTC Managing Director Shivayogi Kalsad, who has been working closely with Sreenivas Murthy, said they will need to keep organizational strengths in focus while restructuring. "We are primarily here to serve, we are not an entity that puts profit first."

Union members, former staffers and the general public have also been visiting him and giving suggestions on how to keep the mammoth KSRTC profitable. Official sources said they have also planned a meeting with citizens.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai pays tribute to freedom fighter Sangolli Rayanna on his Remembrance Day in Bengaluru on Wednesday

Rayanna military school to be ready by year-end

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru/Belagavi

CHIEF Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Wednesday said the State Government is establishing a military school in the name of Sangolli Rayanna at a cost of Rs 180 crore.

After garlanding a statue of Rayanna on his Remembrance Day, the CM said the State Government has already released Rs 55 crore for the purpose and the construction work of the school will be completed this year. Discussions are on with the Defence Ministry to manage the school and to convert it into a military school. Hostel and all the required facilities are coming up on 100 acres of land, the CM said.

The government is committed to keeping alive Rayanna's ideals of patriotism, integrity and valour in the present society, he said, adding that orders will be issued immediately to have Rayanna's portrait displayed in all schools and colleges.

The CM said there is a statue of Kittur Rani Chennamma in New Delhi and they have written to the authorities concerned to install Rayanna's statue at a suitable spot in the capital. Bommai said he has held two rounds of talks on installing Rayanna's and Chennamma's statues in front of the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi and this will be done soon.

In Belagavi, Water Resources Minister Govind Karjol said a Sainik school at Rayanna's birthplace Sangolli will be opened soon. "Sangolli Rayanna, who stood for the protection of the Kittur dynasty, had fought bravely against the British and sacrificed his life. Many distinguished personalities have sacrificed their lives for the freedom of the country and Rayanna is among them. His memories will always be cherished for generations," said Karjol.

Cong won't cross 80-plus seats: HDK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CONTINUING his tirade against the Congress, JDS leader H D Kumaraswamy on Wednesday said the Grand Old Party is not capable of winning more than 80 Assembly seats in the state and the regional party will be a key player after the 2023 polls.

Speaking to media persons at the party office in Bengaluru, the former CM said the Congress came to power after the 1999 elections due to a split in Janata Dal, and a split in the BJP helped the party in the 2013 elections.

In 2004, even after being in power for five years, the Congress was reduced to 65 seats and again, in 2008, the party did not get the majority, he said. However, in 2013, the exit of leaders B S Yediyurappa and B Sriramulu from the BJP helped the Congress. The party is not capable of winning more than 70 to 80 seats on its own and that is why they are

knocking on others' doors, he remarked.

Stating that the Congress will not be able to weaken the JDS, Kumaraswamy said the regional party will play an important role after the 2023 elections.

Hitting out at Congress leader Siddaramaiah, Kumaraswamy said when the former was in the JDS, the party was getting around 19 per cent votes, and even now, after his exit, the party gets around 19 per cent votes. He accused the Congress leader of helping the BJP during the bypolls to eight Assembly seats when Yediyurappa was the CM.

The former CM expressed concern over huge spending, up to Rs 30 crore, in elections and said there is a need to bring in reforms to end such practices. Siddaramaiah refused to respond to allegations made by the JDS leader.

JDS sets up 20-member core committee

Bengaluru: The JDS has appointed former minister N B Nabi as its state party working president and constituted a state core committee headed by former minister Bandeppa Kashempur. Former CM H D Kumaraswamy on Wednesday released the list of the 20-member core committee that consists of Venkatarao Nadagouda, C S Puttaraju, Prajwal Revanna, Kupendra Reddy, Y S V Datta and B M Farooq among others. Former Prime Minister and party national president H D Deve Gowda, Kumaraswamy and state unit president H K Kumaraswamy are the special invitees.

Students pledge to make use of library

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

MARKING the Republic Day on Wednesday, Syed Issaq invited students from a nearby government school for a low-key inauguration of the library, where the students took a pledge to visit the library often to refer books. Several like-minded people, including Pratap Simha, Suttur Mutt seer Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji and others, took part.

After the event, Issaq said the authorities did not take up the work, and he did not want to keep people waiting. "I am happy now that I could rebuild it. I hope that this serves the purpose and no one is deprived of education and learning," he said.

Status quo on hijab issue till panel submits report: MLA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Udupi

UDUPI MLA K Raghupathi Bhat on Wednesday said a high-powered committee is looking into the hijab row at the Women's Government PU College in Udupi, and till it submits its report, status quo will have to be maintained.

The controversy broke out after six Muslim girl students were barred from attending classes at the college for wearing the hijab inside classrooms. Since then, the students have been demanding that they be allowed to attend classes wearing headscarves, but the college has refused to budge, citing the dress code and uniform rules.

"In the meantime, the protesting students can opt for online classes so that they do not miss out on lessons," Bhat, who is also president of the College Development Committee, told reporters.

Terming the entire hijab row as a creation of some "vested interests" to vitiate the atmosphere on the campus, Bhat said, "The committee will study existing norms with regard to various orders passed by courts in the past about dress code. It will also study the dress code and uniform norms being followed in other states before submitting its report to the State Government. Till that report is received, hijab will not be allowed in classes as it is not considered to be compliant with the dress code."

Bhat said a team of Muslim leaders, led by Congress leader G A Bava, had met him. Bava was apprised of the issue and was told that allowing hijab will lead to unnecessary communal issues on the college campus. "Bava also agreed to talk to the parents of the girls. The college principal will also try to convince the parents of the six girls. If the girls do not agree, online classes may be conducted for them. Next year, those students can move to other colleges where their demands can be met," Bhat said.

Maruprolu Jaswanth Reddy, a soldier from Dariwada Kothapalem village in Bapatla who attained martyrdom in an encounter with terrorists on July 8, 2021, was conferred with Shaurya Chakra Award, the country's third-highest peacetime gallantry award.

KCR skips R-Day event, Oppn furious

CM unfurls Tricolour at Pragathi Bhavan; Governor reads out own speech ar Raj Bhavan

V V BALAKRISHNA @ Hyderabad

IN what could be seen as a major deviation from convention, Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao was conspicuous by his absence at the Republic Day parade, while Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan read out her own speech, reportedly keeping aside the one prepared by the State government.

Due to a surge in Covid-19 cases, the Republic Day, for the first time, was held at Raj Bhavan on Wednesday instead of Parade Grounds this year. Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar and other top officials were present at Raj Bhavan. But the VVIP was missing. The CM unfurled the Tricolour at Pragathi Bhavan and paid tributes to martyrs at Parade Grounds later in the day.

The CM insulted the Governor by ignoring convention and skipping the parade at Raj Bhavan. The CM should have at least sent a senior minister.

Eatala Rajender, BJP MLA

The official function at Raj Bhavan was held at 7 am, as the Governor had to proceed to Puducherry to hoist the National Flag there as Lt Governor. Thus, the entire programme, without tableaux, was completed within half an hour. Soundararajan's address focused more on the country and Constitution and less on the State. Unlike in the past, the State government's achievements and flagship programmes were missing in the Governor's address.

Focus on Modi govt schemes

According to sources, the State government prepared a detailed speech highlighting its achievements. But they did not find a reflection in the Governor's speech.

In contrast, in her terse speech, the Governor highlighted the Narendra Modi government's schemes. "The country is moving forward and witnessing transformational changes in many sectors with the true spirit of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, as envisioned by our Prime Minister Narendra Modiji," the Governor said.

She added that the country had administered a record number of 160 crore vaccine doses and was marching forward to achieve the 200 crore vaccine doses mark in the months to come.

"India had also supplied its indigenously produced vaccines to more than 150 countries in the world," she added. "We are also on a firm path to emerge Atma Nirbhar in our major defence requirements. Owing to the relentless efforts of our Prime Minister Narendra Modiji, India is now considered one of the important global powers," she said.

Tamilisai Soundararajan also highlighted the initiatives launched by the Raj Bhavan.

"I am glad to share that the Raj Bhavan has also launched series of initiatives to reach out to the needy, " she said.

INCLUSIVE GROWTH

STALIN LEADS FORUM FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

IN a move that is likely to give him prominence at the national level, Chief Minister and DMK president MK Stalin on Wednesday announced that he would be launching an All India Federation for Social Justice soon.

He said leaders of oppressed and depressed classes from all States and those concerned about social justice will be part of it. Stalin said, that the initiative would be in place at the earliest to ensure inclusive growth for everyone. He added. "Let us roar together saying Reservation Is Our Right".

Presiding over a national webinar on the topic the DMK president said, "Taking forward the struggle for social justice and joint national programme for social justice movement. This federation will provide prompt suggestions for all States to adhere to laws related to social justice. The percentage of backward, oppressed communities may differ with each state. However, the ideology of social justice is the same."

The Tamil Nadu CM added that 'everything for everyone' would be the basis of this federation. This would be a federation that works to achieve the principles of federalism. He also directed the delegates to meet often to uphold social justice.

Stalin also pointed out that the path towards social justice was not made in a day, but painstakingly laid over the decades by various trendsetters like Dr Natesanar, Dr T M Nair, Sir P Theagarayar, AT Paneerselvam, Panagal Rajah, Thanthai Periyar, Perarignar Anna, Kalaignar in Tamil Nadu and Jyotirao Phule, BR Ambedkar, VP Singh at the national level.

"It was this heritage which made DMK take the cause of depressed societies to restore their rightful seats in medical education in all states and not just Tamil Nadu", Stalin said.

He added "to further continue our journey in the path to achieving the welfare of depressed and oppressed, we need to implement social justice across the country."

No bail for drug peddlers in Dunzo, Swiggy uniforms

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court dismissed the bail petitions of two accused allegedly involved in drug peddling activities, masquerading as Dunzo and Swiggy service providers.

"During investigation, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has seized so many ATM cards and other documents regarding depositing amount, and having used service providers, that is Dunzo and Swiggy, for the purpose of distributing ganja to the public. Such being the case at this stage, it cannot be said there is nothing recovered by the NCB on the voluntary statement of this petitioner from their possession," Justice K Natarajan said, dismissing the bail plea.

On the basis of credible information obtained on September 30, 2021, NCB authorities intercepted a car at Kundanahalli in the city, and found 136kg and 800gm of ganja inside the car, and took the accused, BU Abdul Razak and SH Rashid, natives of Kodagu district and residing in the city, into custody. The petitioners, who were running a salon and bakery, were arrested.

According to the prosecution, Razak and Rashid used to put ganja in small packets and sell it to customers. Razak's huge income, deposited in a bank, clearly shows his involvement in drug-peddling activities. Rashid also sold ganja to the public. The accused made cardboard boxes, wore uniforms of Dunzo and Swiggy delivery personnel to masquerade as service providers, but were, in fact, selling ganja.

After hearing the arguments of both parties, the court said if the petitioners are granted bail, the possibility of influencing prosecution witnesses cannot be ruled out. The alleged offences of drug peddling activities are serious in nature.

Hosp denies admission to Covid +ve pregnant woman

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Hyderabad

IN a shocking incident, a pregnant woman belonging to the Chenchu tribe was denied admission at Achampet Community Health Centre (CHC) in Nagarkurnool district on Tuesday as she was found to be Covid-19 positive.

With no help in sight, her sisters helped the woman deliver a baby at the roadside.

After being informed about the incident, Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad (TVVP) Commissioner Dr K Ramesh Reddy suspended two doctors for gross negligence and for not following the Health Department's instructions with respect to conducting deliveries of Covid positive pregnant women in government hospitals.

Achampet CHC Superintendent Dr Krishna and duty doctor Dr Hari Babu refused admission to Nimmala Lalamma, a resident of Banala village in Balmoor mandal, who came to the hospital with labour pains.

The doctors referred her to another hospital as she tested positive for Covid and there were no PPE Kits at their health centre. After Lalamma's sisters helped her deliver the baby, the hospital's staff admitted the mother and her newborn baby to the hospital, where post-delivery care was given to them.

Ironically, the incident occurred on the day when Health Minister T Harish Rao was in the district to inaugurate a 50-bed CHC in Kollapur.

YOUNG AND PROUD

Children play with tricoloured balloons, taking in the Republic Day spirit, at Nallagutta in Secunderabad on Wednesday | S SENBAGAPANDIYAN

Hosahalli celebrates Keshava Murthy's Padma Shri

ENS @ Shivamogga

A day after Gamaka exponent H R Keshava Murthy was chosen for Padma Shri award, celebrations took place at Hosahalli village in the taluk on Wednesday even as political leaders visited his house and honoured him.

Speaking at his home, Keshava Murthysaid that he was surprised by the news of the award. "I'm happy for the award. We need to protect the art of Gamaka. If more people get interested in learning this art and more people appreciate this art form, it will grow further. I would like to see this art form grow further," he said.

Keshava Murthy's fans flocked to his house and congratulated him. District Minister K C Narayana Gowda, MP B Y Raghavendra, MLC D S Arun and others visited his house and felicitated him. MP B Y Raghavendra said that the award is an honour to Gamaka art. "It's a golden feather on the Gamaka Bhavana situated in the village. It's an occasion for art lovers to celebrate," he said.

Born on February 22, 1934, Keshavamurthy's contribution in extending and expanding the scope of Gamaka is immense and unique. The style of Keshava Murthy is proven to be Keshavamurthy gharana just like Varanasi, Kanpur, Jaipur, Mumbai, Puna gharanas. There are thousands of connoisseurs of gamaka who have become his fans.

Minister K C Narayana Gowda, MP B Y Raghavendra, MLC D S Arun at Keshava Murthy's residence at Hosahalli on Wednesday | Shimoga Nandan

Keshava Murthy's village is known as 'Gamaka Grama' all over the state, thanks to his achievements. His has been a life of fulfilment that brought credit both to his art and his village. The number of students whom he has been training at home free of cost exceeds to hundred. Vedabrahma Ramaswamy Shastry, Keshavamurthy's father, was a pouranika (used to give discourses on epics). Keshava Murthy was tutored by his father and Venkateshaiah, a senior gamaki of yesteryears. He introduced more than a hundred classical ragas to his singing.

Duo murders gold loan firm staffer for gain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Puttenahalli police have arrested two men for allegedly murdering a gold loan company staffer after calling him home on the pretext of pledging gold jewellery. The accused had allegedly strangulated the victim, taken the body on his own bike, and dumped it in a lake at Magadi.

Manjunath (28), a coconut vendor, and Muniraju (24), a bar worker, have been arrested in this regard. Both hail from Kunigal taluk of Tumakuru district, and live at Hoysala Nagar in Sunkadakatte. They have been accused of murdering B Divakar (29). Police said Divakar, on January 20, had dropped his wife at work and had gone to Sunkadakatte, informing his mother that he had some work. As he did not return and his phone was switched off, his mother filed a missing complaint on January 21.

Investigation revealed that his mobile phone was switched off in Hoysala Nagar at 11.10 am on January 20. Based on his call details, Manjunath was arrested and confessed, afterw hich Muniraju was also nabbed.

Muniraju (left) and Manjunath

"They revealed that both had borrowed loans and were in need of money. They were aware of gold loan companies offering doorstep delivery of their services. They searched online and contacted SSR gold loan firm and its executive Divakar got in touch with Manjunath, who claimed he wanted to pledge 70 grams of gold. When Divakar went to Manjunath's house with Rs 3-4 lakh cash, Manjunath and Muniraju robbed the cash. As he resisted, they strangulated him to death," the police said.

CRIME PATROL

3 minors among 6 held for robbery

BENGALURU: The JP Nagar police have arrested six suspects, including three minors, and have recovered 23 bikes and 12 mobile phones worth over Rs 37 lakh. The accused have been identified as Raghavendra, Yasin Khan (both aged 19 years), and Bhanuprakash (20). Police said the accused had committed three robberies in the wee hours of January 10. In JP Nagar, they had waylaid a food delivery boy and robbed him of cash, a mobile phone, and his two-wheeler. "Cases were registered. Based on clues, six persons, including three minors, were arrested," the police added.

Saree was burnt in 2 places: Commission

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ON Divya's contention that the Mysore Silk saree was already used when given for border stitching, the Commission noted that the saree was purchased on August 18, 2019 and handed over to her on October 29, 2019, barely two-and-a-half months after the purchase. The saree is expensive and branded. If it is burnt in two places, it cannot be worn and hence useless. The complainants should be compensated, ordered the Commission, comprising president HR Srinivas and Member SM Sharavathi.

'Census findings to aid in protection'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"THE census and the findings play a crucial role in chalking out better protection measures. But it is also worrisome as people start to fear the presence of tigers in their neighbourhood. It could lead to more conflicts. This is the reason why undisturbed corridors and buffer zones are needed. We are requesting the district administration to clear encroachments. It is ironic that on one hand, Karnataka wants to be number one in tiger numbers, but on the other, it is denotifying forest areas for non-forestry works," the senior forest department official pointed out.

₹86 cr scam: 20 Hescom staff suspended

ARUNKUMAR HURALIMATH @ Hubballi

TWENTY staff, including an executive engineer, of Hubli Electricity Supply Company Ltd (Hescom) have been suspended for alleged involvement in a Rs 86-crore scam. Seven employees facing corruption charges have also been transferred. It was alleged that crores of rupees have been looted by Hescom officials of Athani division. In this regard, a private complaint was filed in August 2021, as per which funds of complex construction, Ganga Kalyana, water supply, OTM, Prime Minister's Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana and many schemes were not utilised in the division, but bills were cleared.

Soon after receiving complaint, Hescom MD Bharathi D formed a team consisting of chief accountants, auditors, engineers and officials. "I have directed the team to inspect and audit accounts from August 2018 to August 2021. During the audit, we found Rs 86 crore has been billed for work not completed and not taken," said Bharathi.

The team submitted a preliminary report to the Hescom office, which was sent to the Power Ministry. It is found that one in-charge executive engineer, four assistant executive engineers, 12 section officers, accountants and a few others were directly involved in the scam, and seven other staff supported it. Meanwhile, Power Minister V Sunil Kumar suspended all 20 staffers.

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಘಟಕ, ಗೆಜ್ಜಲಗೆರೆ, ಮದ್ದೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ –571428

Nandini

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮಂಹಾಒ/ಆಡಳಿತ/ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ/637/2021–22 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25–01–2012

ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಗೆಜ್ಜಲಗೆರೆ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ವೃಂದದ 187 ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗೆ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಖಿದ್ದಾಗಿ/ಅಂಚೆ/ಕೊರಿಯರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಅವಕಾಶವಿಲ್ಲದಿರುವುದೆಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. **ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಸಿಒ 118 ಸಿಸಿಬಿ 2021, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02–09–2021** ರ ಅನುಮತಿಯಂತೆ ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ನೀಡಿರುವ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ವಿವರ	ವೇತನ ಶ್ರೇಣಿ ರೂ.	ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳು
1	ಸಹಾಯಕ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು (ಪ.ವೈ.ಸೇ/ಕ್ರೀ.ಗ)	52650–97100	19
2	ಸಹಾಯಕ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು (ಖರೀದಿ/ಉಗ್ರಾಣ)	52650–97100	01
3	ಸಹಾಯಕ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು (ಮೇವು & ಪ.ಆ)	52650–97100	03
4	ಲೀಗಲ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ	43100–83900	01
5	ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ (ಡಿ.ಟಿ.)	43100–83900	12
6	ಉಗ್ರಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ/ಐ.ಎಂ. ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ	43100–83900	01
7	ಡೇರಿ ಪರಿವೀಕ್ಷಕರು ದರ್ಜೆ–2 – ಸಿವಿಲ್	33450–62600	01
8	ಡೇರಿ ಪರಿವೀಕ್ಷಕರು ದರ್ಜೆ–2 – ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಾನಿಕ್ಸ್ & ಇನ್ಸ್‌ಟ್ರುಮೆಂಟೇಷನ್	33450–62600	02
9	ಡೇರಿ ಪರಿವೀಕ್ಷಕರು ದರ್ಜೆ–2 – ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಿಕಲ್ & ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಾನಿಕ್ಸ್	33450–62600	02
10	ವಿಸ್ತರಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ದರ್ಜೆ – 3	33450–62600	22
11	ವಿಸ್ತರಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ದರ್ಜೆ – 3 ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಹಾಲು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳಿಗೆ	33450–62600	03
12	ಆಡಳಿತ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದರ್ಜೆ –2	27650–52650	14
13	ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದರ್ಜೆ –2	27650–52650	08
14	ಕೆಮಿಸ್ಟ್ ದರ್ಜೆ –2	27650–52650	09
15	ಜೂನಿಯರ್ ಸಿಸ್ಟಮ್ ಅಪರೇಟರ್	27650–52650	10
16	ಕೋ–ಆರ್ಡಿನೇಟರ್ (ಪ್ರೊಟೆಕ್ಷನ್)	27650–52650	04
17	ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷಕರು	27650–52650	01
18	ನರ್ಸ್	27650–52650	02
19	ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದರ್ಜೆ–3/ಡಿಸ್‌ಪ್ಯಾಚರ್ಸ್	21400–42000	10
20	ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದರ್ಜೆ–3/ಡಿಸಿಪ್ಯಾಚರ್ಸ್–ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಹಾಲು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳಿಗೆ	21400–42000	04
21	ಜೂನಿಯರ್ ಟೆಕ್ನೀಷಿಯನ್ – ಎಲೆಕ್ಟಿಕಲ್	21400–42000	16
22	ಜೂನಿಯರ್ ಟೆಕ್ನೀಷಿಯನ್ – ಎಂ.ಆರ್.ಎ.ಸಿ.	21400–42000	06
23	ಜೂನಿಯರ್ ಟೆಕ್ನೀಷಿಯನ್ – ವೆಲ್ಡರ್	21400–42000	02
24	ಜೂನಿಯರ್ ಟೆಕ್ನೀಷಿಯನ್ – ಫಿಟ್ಟರ್	21400–42000	09
25	ಜೂನಿಯರ್ ಟೆಕ್ನೀಷಿಯನ್ – ಬಾಯ್ಲರ್	21400–42000	06
26	ಜೂನಿಯರ್ ಟೆಕ್ನೀಷಿಯನ್ – ಇನ್ಸ್ಟ್ರುಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೆಕಾನಿಕ್	21400–42000	05
27	ಜೂನಿಯರ್ ಟೆಕ್ನೀಷಿಯನ್ – ಎಲೆಕ್ಟ್ರಾನಿಕ್ ಮೆಕಾನಿಕ್	21400–42000	06
28	ಚಾಲಕರು	21400–42000	06
29	ಕೃಷಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ	21400–42000	01
30	ತೋಟಗಾರಿಕೆ ಸಹಾಯಕ	21400–42000	01

ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗಾಗಿ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01–02–2022 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02–03–2022 ರವರೆಗೆ** ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳು ಮುಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ **Website www.manmul.coop** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಹಕಾರ ಹಾಲು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ನಿ.,

EDITORIAL

"Some things torment us more than they ought; some torment us before they ought; and some torment us when they ought not to torment us at all. We are in the habit of exaggerating, or imagining, or anticipating sorrow" — Seneca

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.
— Ramnath Goenka

TIME TO ROOT OUT PROMISES OF IRRATIONAL FREEBIES

The Supreme Court, while hearing a petition against political parties promising freebies, has rightly expressed concern over the practice and issued notices to the Centre and the Election Commission. The petitioner has correctly pointed out that irrational freebies have played havoc with state finances. Coming to the election-bound states, UP's public debt is ₹6.1 lakh crore, Punjab's ₹2.8 lakh crore, Uttarakhand's ₹68,000 crore and Goa's ₹18,844 crore. A recent RBI report said the outstanding liabilities of states had increased from ₹16.48 lakh crore in 2011 to ₹42.92 lakh crore in 2019. Other than running up huge debts, a telling example of how freebies can change a state's expenditure pattern is provided by Delhi. The AAP government's capital expenditure, incurred to create and expand productive assets, infrastructure and public amenities in the national capital, has fallen from ₹11,685 crore in 2013–14 to ₹7,173 crore in 2017–18. The CAG had pointed out that the share of capital expenditure has reduced from 14.39% in 2013–14 to 8.26% in 2017–18. All this is merely because the AAP government has to finance its election promises of free power, water and public bus service for women.

The situation is likely to worsen because the tendency to make such promises has only increased with each election. All political parties in the states currently witnessing elections have promised freebies: Among them are free power, ₹1,000–2,000 to women aged 18 or more, unemployment allowance, smartphones and scooties to girls pursuing college. During the West Bengal election last year, the Trinamool promised free medical insurance cover to all and a monthly allowance of ₹500–1,000 to homemakers. According to election analysts, both played a key role in securing Mamata Banerjee a third successive term, that too with a bigger majority. But winning elections is one thing, governance is another. This unhealthy, unviable and regressive trend needs to be checked before all states collapse under the weight of the promises of political parties.

NEED CLOSE VIGIL ON COVID MUTATIONS

Changes at a very micro level have resulted in the hugely transmissible Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that is spreading the Covid-19 infection at an alarming rate. The multiple mutations in the virus have opened our eyes to how variants differ in their impact on our health, making it imperative to keep them under close watch.

An enzyme called Angiotensin-converting enzyme-2 (ACE-2) on the surface of human cells plays a crucial role in preventing the harmful activities of a protein named angiotensin-2 (ANG-2). If allowed to have its way, ANG-2 is known to cause inflammation, increase blood pressure, damage the linings of blood vessels and injure tissues. ACE-2 inhibits these activities by breaking ANG-2 into counteracting molecules, thus eliminating the harmful effects. But ACE-2 is also a receptor for this virus, helping the latter bind with it. In doing so, it prevents ACE-2 from performing its normal function of regulating the harmful ANG-2 signalling. The vaccines that have emerged through the first two waves of the pandemic are known to generate antibodies that can recognise SARS-CoV-2 and stop it from attaching to ACE-2, by themselves binding with the spike protein of the virus. However, recent discoveries by a team of researchers from University of Missouri-Columbia shows the latest variant has emerged due to 46 specific mutations, many occurring in the spike protein itself. These mutations 'fool' the antibodies from recognising the virus and binding with its spike proteins. That explains why a huge section of the population continues to get infected by Covid-19 despite completing double vaccination.

However, for reasons yet to be understood, Omicron mostly restricts itself to the nasal and throat regions without affecting the lungs. But that should not make us complacent about subsequent variants, the mutations of which could render them more dangerous, like the earlier Delta variant. This calls for a tight vigil on how and when the virus mutates and to be ready with appropriate treatment modules to meet the challenge.

Could Manipur's statehood history have taken a different trajectory? Would its protest culture be any different had it been given full statehood with honour in 1949 itself?

STATEHOOD IN THE NORTHEAST AND MANIPUR'S PATH

SOUMYADIP SINHA

PRADIP PHANJOUBAM
Editor of Imphal Review of Arts and Politics

On January 21, three Northeast states celebrated their statehood day. On this day in 1972, Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur were incorporated as full-fledged states of the Indian Union. Two other states, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, were also made Union Territories on that day, and they too ultimately came to be upgraded to full statehood 15 years later on 20 February 1987 after the Mizo Accord of 1986. Each had a unique path to statehood, some eventful, others routine.

Of these states, Tripura and Manipur were former Princely States, while Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram were part of undivided Assam. Though once part of a single British province, the colonial administration did treat these non-revenue hills differently from the revenue plains of Assam. Hence, by the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation 1873, an Inner Line was drawn to demarcate the "wild" hills from the "revenue" plains. The nomenclature Bengal is used in reference to Assam because after formal annexation in 1826, the latter was merged with the former. Only in 1874 was Assam made a separate chief commissioner's province.

The territories beyond the Inner Line were generally treated as "unadministered", though claimed as British possessions. By the Government of India Act, 1919, this nomenclature changed to "Backward Tracts" and by the Government of India Act, 1935, they came to be divided into "Excluded" and "Partially Excluded" areas. While the rest of the hills remained as "Excluded", the territories that form today's Meghalaya came to be classified as "Partially Excluded".

In the history of Assam since its annexation, the relationship between the hills and plains has never been easy, but the ties plummeted in the early 1960s, when as a consequence of an ongoing linguistic nationalism rivalry between Assamese and Bengali speakers, Assam tried to make Assamese medium mandatory in education. The 1972 bifurcation of Assam in which its hill districts went separate ways is partly a result of this friction.

In 1949, when the status of Tripura and Manipur remained unsettled, the then Governor of Assam Sri Prakasa and his assistant Nari Rustomji went to seek advice from Union Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. In Rustomji's account in 'Imperilled Frontiers', the two sat on a cot next to Patel's sickbed and told the ailing leader of the two states that had still not merged with India and that while Tripura was of little concern, Manipur may be troublesome. Patel simply but famously is quoted as having said: "Don't we have a Brigadier in Shillong" and no more. After an awkward silence, the two left knowing what they were expected to do.

In Manipur at the time, politics thickened. There were many pulls and pressures within on the choice of its future. Broadly, these fell into three categories. One, with the winds of modernism having reached Manipur, there was a strong anti-monarchy movement. Two, there were integrationists who believed Manipur's best future was with India. Three, those who believed Manipur should retain its sovereign status.

As a rapprochement, the then king, Maharaja Bodhchandra Singh, agreed to step down from absolute monarchy to usher in a constitutional one. Accordingly, on 12 December 1946, a Constituent Committee was formed by a Royal Order to draw up a constitution for Manipur. On 8 May 1947, the Manipur State Constitution Act was passed and on 26 July 1947, it was adopted. Thereafter, the state legislative and executive authority came to be vested with the Manipur State Council and then with the elected Manipur State Legislative Assembly after it was formed on 18 October 1948. The elections of 53 members of the Manipur State Legislative Assembly, as per provisions of the Manipur State Constitution Act, 1947, were held in four phases, June 11 and 18 for the valley areas, and July 26 and 27 for the hill areas.

> On 21 September 1949, the Manipur king was made to sign a Merger Agreement under house arrest. This agreement became operational in October 1949 and Manipur became a part of the Indian Union. However, from being a sovereign state with a responsible elected government, Manipur suddenly found itself under the administration of a single bureaucrat (Dewan) and his appointed council

Although Manipur did sign the Instrument of Accession on 11 August 1947, no formal merger happened, and by mid-1949, the Indian Union was impatient to bring all former Princely States into the Union.

On 21 September 1949, the Manipur king was made to sign a Merger Agreement under house arrest at his Shillong residence, where he had gone for some work. This agreement became operational on 15 October 1949 and together with another former Princely State, Tripura, Manipur became a part of the Indian Union.

However, from a sovereign state with a responsible elected government, Manipur suddenly found itself under the administration of a single bureaucrat (Dewan) and his appointed council. This move probably reflects what Fali Nariman says in his book 'The State of the Nation' in the chapter on federalism. In it is a manifestation of an underlying fear of the Union, having just suffered a traumatic Partition, that it may further Balkanise. It therefore needed to ensure the Princely States it absorbed, especially rebellious ones, were made to lose their pride.

After the initial confusion subsided, public agitations began and when they reached a critical threshold, Manipur was upgraded to a Union Territory on 1 November 1956 with provision for a Territorial Council of 30 elected and two nominated members to assist a Chief Commissioner. The Council was constituted on 16 August 1957. When this was unable to pacify the discontent, in June 1963, this Territorial Council was upgraded to Territorial Legislative Assembly under a Lt. Governor. When widespread discontent refused to be allayed, full statehood was granted on 21 January 1972 with a Governor in charge.

Could this statehood history have taken a different trajectory? Would Manipur's protest culture have been any different if it was given full statehood with honour in 1949 itself when it came into the Indian Union?

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WHEN WOULD AN UNFILTERED CEO BE SUCCESSFUL?

R GOPALAKRISHNAN
Best-selling author and corporate advisor

BUILDING BUSINESSES

In the previous month, I had written about two kinds of CEOs—filtered and unfiltered. Filtered CEOs are those who have been through graded sieves of organisational development within that company. For example, in HUL, I was a filtered leader. However, this was not so in my case in Tata. Efficient filtration enables production of a strong suite of internal leaders for the future. Apart from HUL, examples are SBI and ICICI in banking, McKinsey in Consulting, and TCS and Infosys in software. Senior positions in competitors of these companies are often held by alumni of such firms.

On the other hand, unfiltered CEOs are recruits from outside the company. Both filtered and unfiltered leaders have their value, depending on the circumstances of their recruitment. In this article, I propose some success factors for an unfiltered CEO.

The first success factor requires the board to establish whether that industry is in the throes of turbulent change or whether their company is in crisis. The second success factor is to create adequate distance between the predecessor and new appointee. These arise because an unfiltered leader is a recruitment risk compared to a filtered leader. She may turn out to be an 'extreme'—either very successful or unsuccessful. The unfiltered CEO may be on either extreme of the talent bell curve.

Lou Gerstner's appointment at IBM was an example of success of an unfiltered leader. In 1992, John Akers, a 30-year veteran at IBM, was CEO and chairman. IBM was going through a crisis of sales, profits and cash flow. The board decided to bring in an outsider, an unfiltered leader. Lou Gerstner, an MBA from Harvard and alumnus of both McKinsey and RJR Nabisco, was sought out. Gerstner initially was not keen: he was neither a technology person nor did he think it was possible to save the steeply declining IBM. The headhunter persisted—with the additional blandishment that Bill Clinton would call to persuade Gerstner because the then US President wished to save IBM, an American icon. Gerstner relented and joined IBM, and Akers made a clean exit from the company. The story of how IBM was saved is narrated in Gerstner's book—'Who says Elephants Can't Dance?' This is the happy story of an unfiltered CEO who succeeded.

Now consider the unhappy stories about Ramesh Sarin at Voltas and Chris Viehbacher at Sanofi. The facts about both appear among the cases narrated in my 2019 book, 'Crash'.

Voltas was an unwieldy Tata company. For many years, the CEO was A H Tobaccowala, who ran Voltas bureaucratically, based on rules and procedures. However, the company was not in a turbulent technology area nor did it face an existential crisis like IBM. Nonetheless, the board decided to recruit 'the best leader in the world', an unfiltered leader.

Ramesh Sarin had been a filtered leader at ITC for several years. His strength was that he was a customer-focused manager. After Sarin occupied the corner office at Voltas, he found the shadow of Tobaccowala everywhere because the latter did not make a clean exit. He attended board meetings as non-executive chairman and leveraged his long-standing connections within the company to keep abreast of goings-on. Sarin's strategy to transform Voltas from a rules-based company into a customer-focused firm met several obstacles. Sarin left the company before his five-year term expired.

> Unfiltered CEOs are recruits from outside the company. Both filtered and unfiltered leaders have their value, depending on the circumstances of their recruitment. ... The story of how IBM was saved is narrated in Lou Gerstner's book–'Who says Elephants Can't Dance?' This is the happy tale of an unfiltered CEO who succeeded. ... But also look at the unhappy stories of Ramesh Sarin at Voltas and Chris Viehbacher at Sanofi

Sanofi is an archetypal French pharma company, formed through several mergers and acquisitions. Jean-Francis Dehecq became CEO in 2004, followed by a research leader, Dr Le Fur, who had only a short tenure. By September 2008, the Sanofi board decided to look outside. The pharma industry was becoming increasingly global. The company was not in crisis, though its performance was sluggish. The Sanofi board recruited Chris Viehbacher, a German Canadian pharma veteran of 20 years with a superb track record and reputation from GlaxoSmithKline. In line with the mandate he believed he had along with his business instincts, Viehbacher implemented an agenda of global acquisitions and hired several international managers. Over the next six years, the company made acquisitions of $30 billion. Obviously, his management style was way different from the group of directors with a strong French influence. After six years, the directors thought it best to part company with Viehbacher. Chairman Serge Weinberg temporarily ran the company till Sanofi recruited Olivier Brandicourt, a French business leader who had served in Bayer Healthcare and Pfizer.

From these and other examples, it could be hypothesised that the success factors for an unfiltered leader depends on five conditions: 1) The company's industry is in churn or turmoil. 2) The company requires speedy internal reorientation. 3) There is no suitable leader within. 4) Shape the CEO mandate to fit the strength of that chosen candidate and agree the boundaries within which the CEO is to perform. Ideally, the outgoing CEO should make a clean break with the company. 5) The unfiltered leader is not chosen because she is the best but one who fits the company's needs best. This is an important difference.

In hindsight, had these criteria been explicit at the time of recruitment, maybe the outcomes may have been different. Many allied questions arise, fuel for future columns.

(The writer's latest book title, 'Pivots for Career Success—Unleashing People Power', coauthored with R Srinivasan, has just been published. He was Director of Tata Sons and Vice Chairman of Hindustan Unilever)
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MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Padma, nation and govt

Communist leader Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee has refused to accept the Padma Bhushan. In a way, any refusal to accept the high-profile Padma awards appears to be an act of contempt for the nation. The government should at least ensure that such situations are avoided and conclusively ascertain the willingness of people to accept the awards before the announcement.
Vijayachandran Neerazhikkettu, email

Requires courage

It requires tremendous courage of one's convictions to do what the former Bengal chief minister did so majestically. He rejected one of India's highest civilian honours when the normal tendency is to hanker after awards.
M Jameel Ahmed, Mysuru

Hope from Odisha

This is with reference to *Better mix of local poll candidates* (Jan 26). It is a good sign that those from the younger generation are resigning their lucrative jobs to enter local body elections in Odisha. Indian politics needs to be freed from dynasty and corruption for a healthy democracy. With the entry of energetic and young people with good intent, Indian democracy will not only prosper but also create hope for future generations.
Ram Saran Singh, Bengaluru

Tampering with history

The tendency of fascists to distort and tamper with history goes back to the days of dictators like Hitler. The dropping of 'Abide with me', one of Mahatma Gandhi's favourite hymns, from the Beating Retreat ceremony is disgraceful. In trying to prove the superiority of their nationalistic credentials, the ruling party's leaders must not forget that the blood and sweat of all led to our freedom.
Debadurllav Harichandan, Bhubaneswar

Love for the language

The reported appeal by the TN CM to people in the state to christen their newborns with beautiful Tamil names is understandable, given what appears to be a new-found love for the language. It is queer that despite his father being a declared Tamil lover par excellence, he has been named after a dictator in a totalitarian set-up, whose policies were denounced by the second-rung leaders of his own party after death.
R Viswanathan, Chennai

Went beyond his mandate

This is with reference to *Congrats Mr Tirumurti for defending an orphaned civilisation* (Jan 24). The speech by the Permanent Representative of India to the UN was uncalled for and once can say that he went beyond his mandate as the representative of a secular republic.
Abraham Arakal, Alappuzha

Death still a mystery

Even now, the death of Netaji in an alleged crash remains a mystery. Although Tokyo's Renkoji temple has given permission to Indian authorities to conduct a DNA test on what are supposed to be his ashes, the government hasn't responded positively. A DNA test should be conducted to bring out the truth.
Prasanna P, Tiruchy

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Sambit Patra @sambitswaraj
Is unfurling Tiranga and raising the "Vande Mataram" slogan banned in Andhra Pradesh? How can Andhra police arrest a man for showing patriotism?

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
Violent attack by police on innocent students who raised their voice for their right to employment in Allahabad...shameful and deeply condemnable.

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
Students you are the hope of our country. Against the policies of the BJP govt, I am and will be with you in favor of truth but violence is not our way.

PM Narendra Modi bids goodbye to President's Bodyguard horse Vijay, which has retired from service; Indian Air Force personnel during the parade | SHEKHAR YADAV

Might & diversity show on Rajpath

First woman Rafale pilot Lieutenant Shivangi among participants in Republic Day parade

EXPRESS NEW SERVICE @ New Delhi

INDIA showcased its military might and cultural diversity on Rajpath, as it celebrated its 73rd Republic Day on Wednesday. The parade included a few firsts. The first woman pilot of Indian Air Force's Rafale combat aircraft, Lieutenant Shivangi Singh was among participants. The number of aircraft this year was also the highest.

Shivangi became only the second woman fighter pilot, after Flight Lieutenant Bhawna Kanth last year, to participate in the parade as part of the IAF tableau. She belongs to the second batch of IAF women pilots who joined training in 2017. At present, she is part of the IAF's Golden Arrows squadron based out of Ambala in Punjab.

The day started with President Ram Nath Kovind — the first citizen and Supreme Commadner of the country — unfurling the Tricolour. This was followed by the national anthem, with a 21-gun salute. The gun salute was presented by the Ceremonial Battery of 871 Field Regiment. The parade at Rajpath began at 10:30 am, half-an-hour later than usual, for better visibility.

There were a total of 16 marching contingents, including four CAPF contingents, two from NCC, one each from Delhi Police and NSS. Besides six marching contingents of the Indian Army, one each marching contingent of the Indian Navy and Indian Air Force were also among participants.

Lieutenant Shivangi Singh at the parade on Wednesday | TWITTER

Apart from cultural performances by more than 480 dancers from across the country, and as many as 21 tableaux, the parade also featured a grand 75-aircraft flypast by the Indian Air Force, Army and Navy.

There were two motorcycle display teams — of the BSF and ITBP — and two animal contingents from 61 Cavalry and BSF camels.

The day also saw a moment when President Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh bid farewell to the President's Bodyguard (PBG) horse Virat, who served the Indian Army as part of the PBG and has been on Republic Day parade for 13 years as the mount of the commandant of the PBG Commandant. Virat was awarded with the Army Chief's Commendation Card on the January 15 Army Day this year.

Posthumous Ashok Chakra for J&K policeman Babu Ram

PTI @ New Delhi

WIDOW of slain Jammu and Kashmir police officer Babu Ram was awarded India's highest peacetime gallantry award Ashok Chakra on Wednesday.

Assistant sub-inspector Babu Ram was part of an anti-terrorist operation in Srinagar on August 29, 2020. On that day, three terrorists fired upon the joint force of police and the CRPF and fled the spot to take shelter in a house nearby.

Police and security forces zeroed in on the residential house. An operational plan was devised wherein Ram was tasked to lay the inner cordon of the house. He successfully led the evacuation of inmates of the adjoining house. The terrorists were asked to surrender, but they opened fire on the forces.

Amid heavy firing, Ram and his fellow constable entered the house to eliminate the terrorists. The brave Ram not just shielded his colleague and took the bullets on his own body, but also retaliated and killed all three terrorists before making the supreme sacrifice.

AFTER 3 DECADES

The Tricolour being hoisted atop a clocktower in Sri Nagar's Lal Chowk on Wednesday. The national flag was hoisted there after 30 years | PTI

Indians in Ukraine asked to register with embassy in Kyiv

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

THE Indian embassy in Ukraine has put up a notice on its website, urging all Indians living there to register with the embassy. The deadline is 5 pm, January 31. It has also asked them to keep checking the embassy's Facebook and Twitter pages.

This is done amidst ongoing military build-up on the Russian-Ukrainian border. "With an intent to co-ordinate with Indian citizens effectively, and disseminate information in a swift manner, the Embassy of India, Kyiv, requests all Indian citizens, including students presently located in the territory of Ukraine, to fill up the below form. Those students presently pursuing online education from India are directed NOT to fill-up the form," the embassy said in a release.

Meanwhile, the US, UK and Australia have asked their diplomats and their families to leave Ukraine on a voluntary basis. This, they said, was due to the continued threat of Russian military. France has asked its citizens to avoid non-essential travel.

The US and Ukraine have been accusing Russia of making preparations to invade. Moscow denies such claims and maintains it has no intention of attacking any country.

A White House spokesperson had said on Tuesday the US would welcome any country's attempt to play a role in de-escalation of tension between Russia and Ukraine, including India. It is reported that the US is considering sending 5,000 troops to NATO allies in the Baltic and eastern Europe region amid the military build-up by Russia.

Tensions over Ukraine have increased in recent months, with Russia and NATO accusing each other of amassing troops along the Russian-Ukrainian border.

STUDY

Antibodies of Omicron work against others

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

ANTIBODIES generated by Omicron, which is propelling the current wave of Covid-19, are effective against other variants of concern, a latest ICMR-backed study has said.

The study conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research and National Institute of Virology of Pune said, "Individuals infected with Omicron have a significant immune response which could neutralise not only Omicron but also other variants of concern, including the most prevalent Delta variant," said the study, which is a pre-print and not peer-reviewed.

"This suggests that the immune response induced by Omicron could effectively neutralise the Delta variant, making reinfection with Delta less likely. This emphasises the need for Omicron-specific vaccine strategy," said the researchers.

Navy's joint exercise to enhance synergy ends

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE Indian Navy's maritime exercise, aimed at enhancing inter-services synergy, concluded on Tuesday. A variety of weapon firings in realistic tactical scenarios, besides validation of operational missions and tasks under varying settings, were undertaken during the exercise.

Indian Navy in a statement on Wednesday said, "The exercise named Paschim Lehar (XPL-2022) was conducted over 20 days with an objective to validate operational plans of the Western Naval Command and enhance inter-service synergy among the Indian Navy, IAF, Indian Army and Coast Guard." The exercise was conducted under the aegis of the Western Naval Command.

Giving details of the assets, the Indian Navy said, "The intra-theatre exercise included mobilisation and participation of over 40 ships and submarines of the Indian Navy."

There were major military assets mobilised. "The IAF deployed SU 30 MKI and Jaguar maritime strike aircraft, Flight Refuelling Aircraft and AWACs, alongside the Indian Navy's maritime reconnaissance aircraft P8i, Dorniers, IL 38 SD, unmanned aerial systems and MiG 29K strike aircraft," added the Navy.

The exercise provided all participating forces an opportunity to operate together under realistic conditions, in responding to contemporary maritime challenges, across the areas of the Command's responsibility.

As reported earlier, the war fighting structure of the armed forces is being reorganised into theatre commands with an aim to have the assets of all three forces under one commander. Of the various structures under consideration, the geographical area is put under five theatre commands — Air Defence, Maritime Command, Northern Command (comprising J&K, Ladakh), Western Command and Eastern Command.

Hooch kills 9 in Rae Bareli, 8 suspended

NAMITA BAJPAI @ Lucknow

NINE persons have lost their lives and 29 others have fallen ill after consuming spurious liquor in Pure Chatta Singh village in Rae Bareli district, about 80 km from the Uttar Pradesh capital of Lucknow.

The tragedy occurred on Tuesday night, when four persons died after consuming liquor at a function. The toll went up to nine on Wednesday.

According to Rae Bareli DM Vaibhav Srivastava, while the body of the deceased were sent for autopsy, a probe was ordered. "An FIR has been lodged against the licensed shop which had supplied the liquor to the villagers."

Late on Wednesday, five policemen and three excise department officials of the district were suspended.

As per police sources, the deceased have been identified as Chandra Gopal (45), Raj Babu (30), Qasim (35), Saroj (40), Pankaj (38), Ram Sumer (46), Sukhrani (60), Bansi Lal (50) and Kallu (53). Raj Babu and Qasim were visitors and did not hail from the village.

According to district police officials, around 40 persons had consumed liquor at a local function. Seven persons, including an elderly woman, died in the wee hours, while two more passed away at the community health centre.

According to Rae Bareli police chief Shlok Kumar, an FIR has been lodged against Dhirendra Pal Singh, the liquor shop owner and others.

Congress divided even over Azad Padma award

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

PADMA Bhushan to veteran Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad has brought the focus back on the divides in the grand old party, with 'rebel' G23 leaders and the Gandhi family loyalists sparring over it.

Rajya Sabha MP and senior leader Kapil Sibal, who has been most vocal among G23 letter writers, questioned the timing. "Ironic that the Congress doesn't need his services when the nation recognises his contributions to public life."

Former Union minister Anand Sharma wished Azad for the award. "Heartiest congratulations to Ghulam Nabiji for well-deserved recognition of his lifelong enriching contribution to public service and parliamentary democracy."

Azad, Sharma and Sibal were among those who had written to the to Congress chief in 2020 for organisational elections and changes in the party.

Another party leader, Raj Babbar said the Padma Bhushan is an ideal recognition of Azad's service to the nation. "You're like an elder brother and your impeccable public life and commitment to Gandhian ideals have always been an inspiration."

However, there were some who targeted Azad and even mentioned how CPI(M) leader and former West Bengal CM Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee turned it down.

"Ghulam, not Azad (enslaved, not free). Former West Bengal CM Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee declines the Padma Bhushan award. Right thing to do. He wants to be Azad, not Ghulam," senior party leader Jairam Ramesh tweeted.

There have been rumours that Azad may leave Congress and float his own party ahead of Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Azad has denied claims that he changed his Twitter bio, signalling his exit from the grand old party.

PADMA AWARDS

Centenarian social worker, leprosy doctor, child marriage activist among unsung heroes

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR, ANURAAG SINGH & HARPREET BAJWA @ Guwahati/Bhopal/Chandigarh

WHAT do globally-acclaimed chief executives Sundar Pichai and Satya Nadella, India's first track and field Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra, Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad and the late Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat have in common with centenarian Assamese social worker Shakuntala Choudhury, 96-year-old philanthropist Baba Iqbal Singh of Punjab and Vijaykumar Vinayak Dongre, a doctor from Maharashtra who works among leprosy patients?

They are all Padma award winners whose names were announced on Tuesday evening. While Pichai and Nadella hobnob with the world's power elites and A-listers and Chopra is feted and celebrated wherever he goes, Choudhury, Singh and Dongre are perhaps unknown even in the states they belong to as they work below the gaze of any attention.

But ask those who have worked or benefited from their benevolence and they will swear by these social workers who gave up their own comfort, wealth and families to dedicate themselves to spreading rural education, fighting social prejudices and treating marginalised sections, among others.

And in a leveler of sorts, Choudhury, Singh, Dongre, Pichai, Nadella, Azad et al could rub shoulders at the stately and cavernous halls of Rashtrapati Bhawan whenever the date for the presentation of the Padma awards is fixed.

Shakuntala Choudhury

Shakuntala Choudhury had no reaction when her colleagues at the Kasturba Ashram in Guwahati broke the news that she was among the recipients of the Padma Shri. It has been a while that the 102-year-old has lost her memory. But before that she devoted her life to the welfare and empowerment of women.

"We at the ashram and her family members had shared the news with her yesterday but she did not react. She has no idea that she has been conferred the award," said a member of the ashram.

Born in Guwahati, Choudhury started her career as a school teacher and joined the Kasturba Ashram in 1947. Ever since then, she has been associated with it and served it in various capacities.

Lata Desai

Lata Desai, 75, a pediatrician, had co-founded the Society for Education Welfare and Action along with her late husband in 1980. SEWA Rural is a voluntary organization involved in health and development activities in the rural tribal area of Jhagadia in Bharuch, south Gujarat.

Desai and her husband left their flourishing medical practice in New York to return home to serve to poor and they made Jhagadia their base. Their hospital serves approximately 70,000 outpatients and 12,000 indoor patients every year. Nearly 2,800 deliveries and 5,000 surgeries are conducted every year.

Baba Iqbal Singh

The 96-year-old educationist, social worker and philanthropist, Baba Iqbal Singh retired as the director of agriculture in the Himachal Pradesh government in 1986 and started a school on the foothills of Baru Sahib. Singh also set up the Kalgidhar Trust which anchors his work in rural education, drug de-addiction and women's empowerment.

"Singh has been doing yeoman's service in the field of rural education for almost 75 years. Under his guidance the trust is running 129 Akal academies and two universities in north India, besides a charitable hospital and two de-addiction centres. Thousands of underprivileged rural children are given free or subsidised education in schools and many topped the IIT, IIM and NEET exams. Some even becoming IAS and IPS officers," said Davinder Singh, the secretary of the trust.

Vijay Kumar Dongre

82-year-old Vijay Kumar Dongre, a doctor and social worker, has dedicated his life to working with leprosy patients for the last five decades. He has been working in urban, rural and tribal areas of Maharashtra. Before the Padma Shri, he was awarded the International Gandhi Award for Leprosy 2013 by former President Pranab Mukherjee. He has written 52 booklets on leprosy and given about 10,000 lectures on the disease. In 1981, there were approximately 40 lakh leprosy patients in India but after the effort of Dongre and others this has come down to 83,000.

Basanti Devi

Fondly known as Basanti behen, Basanti Devi is synonymous with women's empowerment, environment conservation and a progressive mindset. "I can't express my feelings in words. I am thankful for the honour," she reacted, clearly overwhelmed.

Having faced the challenges of child marriage, she educated people about the ills of marrying girls before adulthood. She was widowed at the age of 12 in 1980, but she never gave up her zeal to bring about change.

A Class IV dropout, she went door-to-door to explain to parents about the irreversible damage that early marriage can cause a child. She also spearheaded a campaign for afforestation along the Kosi river.

Narendra Prasad Misra

Thirty seven years ago, Narendra Prasad Misra led a team of doctors at the Gandhi Medical College Hamidia Hospital in Bhopal to save thousands of lives affected by the 1984 Bhopal Gas tragedy. He never looked back thereafter.

"My father was the dean of the Gandhi Medical College when the killer gas leak happened. I still remember how my father left to save the lives of countless people. He didn't sleep for at least three nights and led from the front," recounted his son, Sunil Misra.

After the treatment was over Misra continued his struggle as he presented the case of the gas victims before a court in New York and succeeded in getting them compensation. "Even during both the first and second waves of the Covid pandemic when most doctors were rendering online consultancy to patients, my father kept treating his patients physically at the clinic, mostly free of cost," Misra said. His father died in September last year.

Prabhaben Shah

91-year-old Prabhaben Shah, fondly called 'Daman ki Divya,' has worked for the betterment of the people, conducted awareness programmes and organised a 'Vastra Bank' for flood victims in Kutch. Shah has also started canteens for patients and the economically weaker sections in hospitals.

(With Dilip Singh Kshatriya, Sudhir Suryawanshi, Vineet Upadhyay and Sana Shakil)

STATES OPPOSE PROPOSAL

Nine non-BJP ruled states have opposed Centre's proposal that gives it an overriding power while deciding on central deputation of IAS officers, whereas eight others have given consent.

4 OF A FAMILY — INJURED AFTER BEING STABBED BY PRIEST IN CHHATTISGARH

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	26	09	Mumbai	29	14
Bhopal	19	06	Panaji	31	20
Jaipur	20	07	Patna	20	12
Amritsar	15	06	Lucknow	17	08
Chennai	31	21	Port Blair	30	25
Kolkata	24	13	Imphal	20	08
Srinagar	11	00	Chandigarh	14	10

ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2022 DECIDE

BJP fields Khanduri from Kotdwar

Dehradun: The BJP in Uttarakhand on Wednesday announced its second candidate list for nine more seats for the state assembly elections. Ritu Khanduri, who is MLA from Yamkeshwar and daughter of former CM Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri, will seek people's mandate from Kotdwar. The only second woman in the list is Shaila Rani Rawat from Kedarnath. The BJP has announced candidates for 68 seats.

Amit Shah reaches out to Jat leaders of UP

New Delhi: Rashtriya Lok Dal chief Jayant Chaudhary has chosen the "wrong home", Union Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday as he reached out to Jat leaders at a meeting here ahead of the first phase of polling in UP. The BJP suggested that its doors were open for the RLD leader, too. According to sources, while talking to Jat leaders, Shah said the ideology of the BJP and the community is the same as both keep national interest first.

POLITICAL DIVIDED FAMILIES

Blood relations have parted ways to try luck from parties different to their familial ideology

NAMITA BAJPAI, HARPREET BAJWA & SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
@Lucknow/Chandigarh/Mumbai

POLITICS cuts across familial ties. Ahead of Assembly polls in various states, instances have come up where members of the same family are on the opposite sides. Some of them may still live under the same roof, but when it comes to ideologies, they are far apart.

Relationships have taken a back seat in these cases. Followers of the same principles not long ago, some of them have decided to go for better opportunities. Some have been lured away by political rivals waiting for opportunities.

"Like political parties, influential political families are also divided over choices. If they find a better opportunity in other parties, they don't think twice before moving out," said AK Mishra, a prominent political scientist in Lucknow.

Swami Prasad Maurya (SP) & Sanghmitra Maurya (BJP)

Father and daughter. Former Yogi cabinet minister Swami Prasad left BJP to join Samajwadi Party with half a dozen BJP MLAs on January 14. He accused the party of neglecting SC and OBC communities. It left his daughter red-faced, as she is a BJP MP from Badaun and campaigning for the party through social media platforms. Swami Prasad said his decision is personal and not binding on his family members.

Aparna Yadav (BJP) & Akhilesh Yadav (SP)

Younger daughter-in-law of the Samajwadi Party patriarch, Aparna joined BJP recently defying family ideology, purportedly against the wishes of SP chief and Mulayam's elder son Akhilesh. Moreover, other members of the Yadav clan, including Mulayam's close confidante Hari Om Yadav and Pramod Gupta (relative of Mulayam's second wife Sadhna Gupta) followed suit.

Imran Masood (SP) & Noman Masood (BSP)

Brothers. The traditionally Congress loyalist family has seen quite a rift. Imran, an influential leader of western UP, has joined SP after failing to stitch a Congress-SP alliance. Noman joined BSP and got a ticket to contest from his favoured Gangoh segment in Saharanpur. Noman had joined RLD during the farmers' unrest. Both contested for Congress in 2017 and lost to BJP candidates.

Rea Shakya (BJP) & Vinay Shakya (SP)

Daughter and father. Vinay Shakya, the BJP MLA from Bidhuna, joined SP with Swami Prasad Maurya. However, his daughter got a BJP ticket from the same constituency after expressing faith in the ruling party. She even alleged that her uncle and grandmother had abducted her father to make him join SP forcibly. Vinay refuted the claim. SP is yet to name its Bidhuna candidate. It is expected that Rea will either face her father or uncle.

Ritesh Pandey (BSP) & Rakesh Pandey (SP)

Son and father. Ritesh is a BSP MP from Ambedkarnagar. His father Rakesh, a former BSP MP from the same constituency, has defected to SP. As the Pandeys are believed to have hold on Brahmin vote, Rakesh switching parties is seen as a blow to BSP chief Mayawati's social engineering formula of stitching together Mulsim-Dalit-Brahmin votes.

Kazim Ali Khan (Cong) & Haider Ali Khan (Apna Dal S)

Father and son. The scions of the Rampur royal family in Uttar Pradesh had been loyal to Congress until January 23 when Haider joined the Anupriya Patel-led Apna Dal (S). He has got a ticket from Suar as the first Muslim candidate of NDA. Haider's move came even after being named a Congress candidate. His father Kazim will take on Azam Khan from Rampur on a Congress ticket.

Partap Singh Bajwa (Cong) & Fateh Jung Singh Bajwa (BJP)

Brothers. Tussle between them is well known. Rajya Sabha MP Pratap wants to return to state politics and has been given a ticket from Qadian. The sitting MLA from Qadian is Fateh Jung. He has left Congress for BJP and is likely to fight polls from neighbouring Batala.

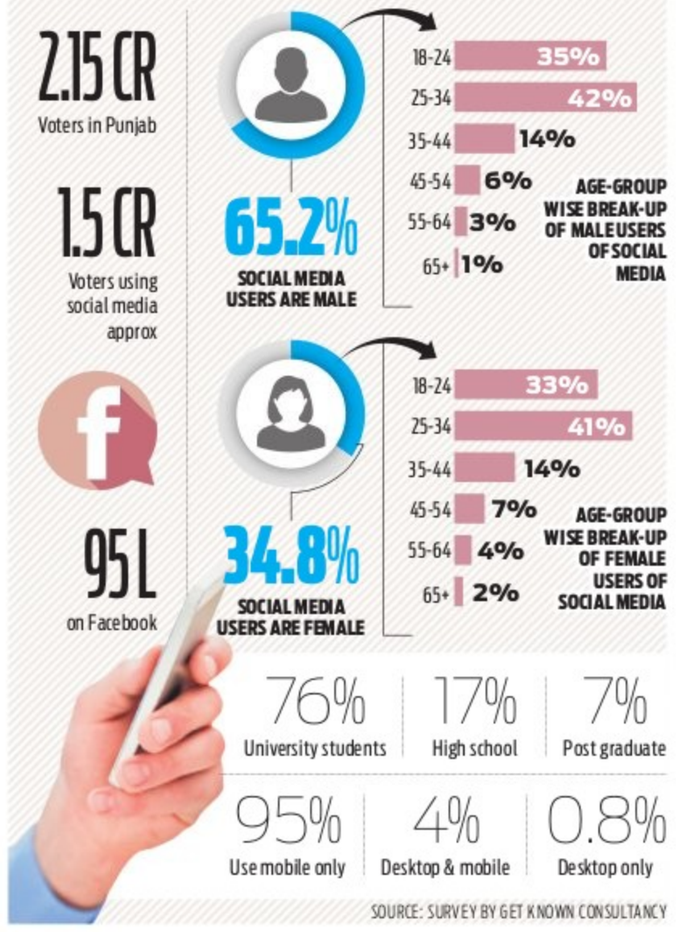
Rana Gurjeet Singh (Cong) & Rana Inder Partap Singh (Ind)

Father and son. Cabinet minister Gurjeet is the Congress candidate from Kapurthala and sitting MLA. His son Inder Partap is an Independent candidate from the neighbouring Sultanpur Lodhi against sitting MLA Navtej Cheema of Congress. The father has held rallies in favour of his son against the candidate of his party.

Pratap Singh Rane (Cong) & Divya Rane (BJP)

Father-in-law and daughter-in-law. The Poriem constituency could see a contest between the former CM and his son Vishwajit's wife. The 83-year-old had been advised by BJP to retire from politics. He has already launched his poll campaign. Since 1972, Rane has won every assembly election. BJP has declared Divya its candidate from Poriem, while husband Vishwajit will contest from Valpoi.

Parties for big social media push



SOURCE: SURVEY BY GET KNOWN CONSULTANCY

It's battle stations in Punjab's social media war rooms

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

WITH Punjab being a top performer with 84.32 internet subscribers per 100 population, as per the NITI Aayog Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) India Index 2020-21 report, all parties are in 'war mode' on their social media platforms to reach out to 1.50 crore of the total 2.15 crore voters.

What is more, over 65% of voters in Punjab are under 35 years of age. On the campaign calendar of almost all parties are digital rallies; the first one is by Rahul Gandhi due in Jalandhar on Jan 27.

The social media war rooms of political parties are abuzz with specialists with a dedicated team of content writers in various languages. Teams of creative experts, young techies, graphic designers, audio-video experts, artists and editors are bringing in a new dimension to the polls.

These war rooms have capabilities like geo-tagging and geo-fencing on the back of data analytics, making digital canvassing a thrilling exercise.

Himanshu Pathak, founder and managing director of Get Known, runs a social media war room of a political party. "We have gone digital to reach the last-mile using immersive technology," says Pathak.

The social media war room of the Congress with a 35-member team is working from a two-floor office located in Mohali. Gaurav Pandhi, Congress' national coordinator, digital communications and social media, said the party's first digital rally on January 27 will be telecast on various social media platforms. He said there are about 15,000 WhatsApp groups in which the party would reach more than 15 lakh people.

Shiromani Akali Dal's IT wing head Nashattar Singh Gill says the party did the first virtual rally near Chandigarh recently. "We have created 23,000 WhatsApp groups," Gill said. SAD has come out with online campaigns #LiesofKejriwal, #FakeDelhiModel, Gurantian Da Jaal Hai, Jhootha Kejriwal Hai', targeting AAP and also hitting out at the ruling Congress.

Punjab BJP IT cell in-charge Rakesh Goyal says the party has appointed social media heads in all 117 Assembly constituencies.

A senior state AAP leader said the ECI guidelines are most suited for the party. "We have the largest social media network with a team of professionals. We have made a WhatsApp group to link up with booth-level workers."

SAD's Majithia to take on Sidhu in duel of Amritsar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chandigarh

AMRITSAR (East) assembly seat is going to witness a high-decibel fight in the upcoming Assembly elections as Bikram Singh Majithia of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) will take on Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu.

SAD patriarch Parkash Singh Badal will contest from his traditional seat Lambi and party president Sukhbir Singh Badal from Majithia.

Announcing the candidature of Majithia, who is his brother-in-law, from Amritsar (East), Sukhbir said, "Sidhu's arrogance will be his undoing. He has been harping on his support among the masses. Now his support will be tested by 'Majha da Sher'. He should get ready to fight the brave SAD workers. We will break his arrogance by ensuring he loses his security deposit... We know he has not done anything in his constituency."

In the last elections, Sidhu had won Amritsar (East) by 42,661 votes.

In December last year, the Punjab Police had registered a case under NDPS Act against Majithia and he was recently given bail by the Punjab and Haryana High Court. Badal said a false case was against Majithia because he always raised the issues of the people.

"They have registered a false case against a Gursikh who is known to do 'Nitnem' for two and a half hours every day," he said.

VIRUS METER

	UTTAR PRADESH		MANIPUR		GOA		PUNJAB		UTTARAKHAND	
	JAN 25	JAN 26	JAN 25	JAN 26	JAN 25	JAN 26	JAN 25	JAN 26	JAN 25	JAN 26
Fresh cases	11,583	10,937	418	388	1,794	1,465	4,049	5,136	3,893	2,904
Deaths	15	23	2	3	8	7	30	22	6	4
Positivity rate (%)	5.8	5.08	18.1	16.2	32	NA	11.3	12.89	13.7	13.96

Cong may see more exits ahead of polls

RICHA SHARMA @New Delhi

CONGRESS could see exit of some other party leaders and results of five assembly elections could be crucial as many disgruntled leaders could leave the party in coming days, say sources. Exit of former union minister and general secretary R P N Singh has again brought focus on the growing list of disgruntled Congress leaders, who feel sidelined in the party and look for better prospects.

Sources said that results of five election-bound states would be important as many party leaders await to see how party performs. "Many Congress leaders are in touch with other parties and we could see exodus in the coming days. Meanwhile, wins are mandatory in Punjab, Uttarakhand and Goa. And if we lose Punjab, it will be a big setback," said a senior party leader.

The party has seen series of senior party leaders leaving saying the party has changed and it lacks leadership to work for the welfare of people. Leaders leaving include, close aides of former party chief Rahul Gandhi and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

There is buzz that veteran party leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, another young leader Milind Deora are also likely to change track. Azad has been working in Jammu and Kashmir and could float a new party ahead of election in union territories.

"There will be exodus from the party in Gujarat ahead of assembly elections later this year. Many leaders are in touch with other parties and any wrong move by the party could hurt the its prospects," said another leader.

Two Gujarati families on Turkey visit not kidnapped

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
@Ahmedabad

The Gujarat Police have denied that six members of two families from a village in Gandhinagar district were kidnapped by human traffickers while on a visit to Istanbul.

The two families, comprising two couples and two children, had become untraceable after reaching Turkey on a visitor visa earlier this month, a senior police officer said. However, they are safe and currently staying at a hotel in Turkey. They are also in touch with their families back home and will return in the next two-three days, the police said.

While probing the case of a Gujarati family of four freezing to death on US-Canada border recently, police came across a video in which a few people alleged that the Gandhinagar families had been kidnapped in Istanbul. However, according to a senior police officer of the Ahmedabad crime branch, the parents of the two couples denied any such thing. The crime branch also questioned the agent through whom the families had acquired visitor visas.

"Once they return, we will talk to them and find out what exactly happened to them and what were their plans after landing in Turkey," said the officer when asked if the two families were trying to migrate illegally to any foreign country. The officer ruled out any connection between the two incidents in Canada and Turkey.

The matter came to light after the crime branch launched the preliminary probe into the alleged involvement of local agents following the death of four members of a family who died due to extreme cold while attempting to cross into the US from the Canada border.

Covid jabs' price may be capped at ₹275

ENS @New Delhi

THE price of Covishield and Covaxin is likely to be capped at ₹275 per dose after it gets regular market approval from India's drug regulator, reports said. Currently, Covaxin is priced at ₹1,200 per dose while Covishield costs ₹780 in private facilities. The cost includes a service charge of ₹150.

A Subject Expert Committee on Covid-19 of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation had on January 19 approved regular market approval to the two vaccines for use in adult population, subject to certain conditions. The government, however, is yet to announce the conditions for the market sale. According to reports, the authorities had asked the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority to start working on the pricing to make it affordable. Although the price will be capped at ₹275, an additional service charge of ₹150 will be added. The two vaccines were granted Emergency Use Authorisation on January 3, 2021.

Meanwhile, the number of active Covid cases nationally is coming down. On Wednesday, 2.85 lakh new cases were reported — 62,000 fewer than 3.47 lakh reported last week. A reduction of 13,824 cases has been recorded in the active Covid caseload in a span of 24 hours.

Mask-less BJP, Congress leaders gain notoriety

While senior MP politicians – including ministers and Rajya Sabha members Digvijaya Singh and Vivek Tankha – have recently tested Covid positive, a number of BJP and Congress leaders don't seem to be worried about the surging third wave. Recently, visuals went viral of BJP leader and Jyotiraditya Scindia-loyalist, Imarti Devi, where she was seen throwing away a face mask distributed by AAP workers in Datia district. Just a day later, Nakul Nath, the first time Congress MP son of ex-CM and state Congress chief Kamal Nath was not only seen sans face mask at an event in Chhindwara, but while addressing the event, he said, "I'm neither afraid of corona nor of Section 144 of CrPC."

ANURAAG SINGH
Our correspondent in Madhya Pradesh
singhanuraag.jaurno@gmail.com

BHOPAL DIARY

Indore's Covid situation betters as Bhopal's declines

The state capital Bhopal has left Indore behind in terms of clocking new cases of Covid since two days. State's most populous metro, Indore, used to be the Covid capital of MP with maximum new as well as active cases of the viral infection during all three waves of Covid. On Tuesday, Bhopal reported 2,095 cases at 27 per cent positivity and on Monday 2,024 cases was reported at 28.90 per cent positivity. On the other hand, the number of new cases as well as the positivity rate is declining in Indore, which reported 1,992 cases on Tuesday at 17.65 per cent positivity on Tuesday and 1,963 cases at 19.22 per cent positivity on Monday. The number of newly recovered cases has started exceeding new positive cases in Indore, which isn't happening in Bhopal.

Uma Bharti's drive for total ban on liquor in Feb

Former MP CM and ex-union minister Uma Bharti will launch her statewide campaign for total ban on liquor and other intoxicants in MP after February 14. While making it clear that her campaign wasn't against the BJP government in the state, but against consumption of liquor and other intoxicants, she tweeted recently that the issue has been informed to senior RSS and BJP leaders and she'll start the campaign after February 14. The opposition Congress leader Narendra Saluja was quick to react, saying his party will support the saffron-clad BJP politician's campaign.

Dhar first in MP to roll out vaccine dose to all teens

The tribal dominated Dhar district became the first district in MP on Tuesday to render the first dose of the Covid vaccine to all eligible teenagers in the 15-18 years age group. The Dhar district administration had set a target of inoculating at least 1,42,115 children, but the target was surpassed on Tuesday with first dose being rendered successfully to 1,42,296 children of the teenaged group, Dhar district administration sources said. The records show that till Tuesday 7.30am, Dhar was first spot with 99.4% coverage, followed by Panna at 88.3%. Bhopal figures in the third spot with 86.8% coverage and Indore figures a poor 33rd, with 71.3% coverage.

3300 KM

Australian Navy's largest ship weighing 27,500 metric ton had completed the voyage from Brisbane to deliver supplies in Tonga

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • SW: Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	2	-9	SNY	Los Angeles	22	6	LC
Colombo	28	22	LC	Melbourne	33	24	LR
Dhaka	24	17	LC	Moscow	-3	-11	SW
Dubai	24	15	SNY	New York	1	-2	LC
Houston	14	6	LC	Singapore	33	24	LC
Istanbul	2	-1	SW	Toronto	-9	-11	SW
London	9	4	LC	Washington	3	-2	SNY

Putin plans force by Feb: US

Official believes Russia may wait for Winter Olympics to begin before taking action on Ukraine

WASHINGTON

WITH The United States believes that Russian President Vladimir Putin remains poised to use force against Ukraine by mid-February despite a pressure campaign to stop him, a top diplomat said Wednesday.

"I have no idea whether he's made the ultimate decision, but we certainly see every indication that he is going to use military force sometime perhaps (between) now and the middle of February," Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman told a forum.

Sherman, who met with her Russian counterpart earlier this month in Vienna in an attempt to warn Moscow against invading its neighbor, said that Putin's planning may be affected by the Winter Games in Beijing, which the United States and several allies are boycotting due to human rights concerns. "We all are aware that the Beijing Olympics begin on February 4, the opening ceremony, and President Putin expects to be there," Sherman told the Yalta European Strategy forum.

"I think that probably President Xi Jinping would not be ecstatic if Putin chose that moment to invade Ukraine, so that may affect his timing and his thinking." Sherman said that the United States was "pushing for diplomacy" but also "preparing for the worst."

She reiterated that "even one Russian troop further invading Ukraine is a very serious matter" -- a continued message from Washington after President Joe Biden raised eyebrows by speaking of a different European response to a "minor" incursion.

But she said the United States was "preparing for all kinds of scenarios," from a "full-on invasion" to "hybrid attacks or subversion or sabotage or coercion."

Any invasion "has tremendous consequences for Ukraine and Europe, but also sends a message to the entire world that other autocrats can act with such impunity and go past long-held international principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity and an ability of a country to choose its own alliances."

Russia late last year amassed tens of thousands of troops near the border with Ukraine, where a pro-Moscow insurgency has killed more than 13,000 people since 2014.

Russia, while denying plans for an invasion, has demanded concessions from the United States including a guarantee that Ukraine will never enter NATO.

Meanwhile, the US embassy in Ukraine on Wednesday urged its citizens in the ex-Soviet country to "consider departing now" as fears grow over a possible Russian invasion.

"The US embassy urges US citizens in Ukraine to consider departing now using commercial or other privately available transportation options," the embassy said in a statement.

Ukraine-Russia talks

Top officials from Ukraine and Russia met in Paris on Wednesday for talks to defuse tensions on their border, a meeting seen as a positive step by France despite fresh warnings from the US that Moscow was preparing military action.

The meeting in the French capital between the Kremlin's deputy chief of staff Dmitry Kozak and senior Ukrainian presidential advisor Andriy Yermak, alongside French and German diplomats, was seen by Paris as holding out faint hope of a thaw. *AFP*

Partygate report due, but UK PM Johnson says he won't resign

LONDON

EMBATTLED British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday said he won't resign amidst growing pressure on him to quit after the so-called 'partygate' scandal of alleged lockdown breaches at 10 Downing Street and other government offices during 2020-2021.

On Tuesday, London's Metropolitan Police announced it is investigating reported gatherings at Downing Street and Whitehall during Covid-19 lockdowns. Prime Minister Johnson has said that he welcomes the Scotland Yard investigation to give public clarity.

There was an earlier expectation that the police probe could delay the internal Cabinet Office inquiry being conducted by top civil servant Sue Gray, but ministers indicated on Wednesday that the report is ready for release soon.

The focus then turned to whether the findings will be released in full, a decision to be made by Downing Street, and if it will be ahead of the crucial Prime Minister's Questions session in the House of Commons scheduled for Wednesday afternoon. Instead, the PMQs went on to be dominated by Johnson's vehement rejections of Opposition calls to resign.

Answering with a simple "no" when Labour leader Keir Starmer accused him of breaching the ministerial code and asked if he would now resign, Johnson insisted that the government had "delivered on Brexit [and] delivered the fastest vaccine rollout in Europe". He went on to reiterate earlier assertions that the findings of the internal inquiry will be published in due course.

"When I receive it, I will do exactly what I said. In the meantime, what the people of this country want to hear is what we're doing to tackle the issues that matter to all of us, fixing the cost-of-living, helping people across the country by lifting the living wage, by helping people with their fuel costs,' said Johnson, in an attempt to move the focus away from the partygate scandal.

However, Starmer and other Opposition MPs kept up the pressure, repeatedly demanding he step down as Prime Minister. "The police say the evidence meets the test, frankly the public have made up their minds, they know he's not fit for the job, and that's what really matters here," said Starmer, with reference to the Metropolitan Police inquiry into potential breaches of COVID lockdown rules.

'A few weeks ago I commissioned an independent inquiry into a series of events in Downing Street, in the Cabinet Office as well as some other Whitehall departments that may have constituted potential breaches of the COVID regulations,' Johnson, 57, said in a parliamentary statement on Tuesday. ' *PTI*

He had hailed a ride to get from work in Boston to his home in Somerville on **April 30**

A Massachusetts man who was left a quadriplegic when his Uber vehicle crashed last year is seeking **$63 million** in damages

The suit seeks a jury trial and $63 million for severe physical, mental and emotional injuries, extraordinary pain and suffering, and permanent disability

William Good, 31, of Somerville, alleges in the lawsuit that Uber failed to appropriately screen, hire and supervise their driver, resulting in severe and life-changing injuries. William Good is now a quadriplegic

The driver had a driving history that included moving violations, crashes and citations, the suit says

Pak Army chief meets rudderless Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa met Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday and discussed "professional matters" pertaining to the armed forces, amidst fresh attack on the government by the Opposition over its inability to control corruption.

The meeting was held in the Prime Minister's Office. "Professional matters pertaining to the Pakistan Army were discussed in the meeting,' according to a statement. The meeting also comes a day after Transparency International reported a rise in corruption in Pakistan, showing it had dropped by 16 places to 140 position in the 2021 report of the anti-corruption watchdog.

The report came as the PM Advisor on Accountability Shehzad Akbar resigned over failure to bring to justice various Opposition leaders allegedly involved in corruption. Opposition parties termed the resignation of Akbar and the report as indications of Khan's failure to tackle corruption and demanded his resignation. To pressure him, the Pakistan Democratic Movement, an alliance of nearly a dozen opposition parties, announced a countrywide protest on March 23 to force him to resign and call new elections. But Khan warned he would be more dangerous if ousted from power.

It is believed that Khan's outburst was aimed as much against the Opposition as the powerful Army which indirectly controls the political system. Earlier in the day, minister Sheikh Rashid dismissed rumours of a rift between the Pm and the Army. *PTI*

China peeved as US allows diplomatic staff to leave

BEIJING

CHINA on Wednesday expressed serious concern and dissatisfaction with the US over its reported move of allowing American diplomats and their families to leave the country to avoid Beijing's stringent anti-pandemic measures, terming it a 'confusing' decision that will only expose US staff to "much greater risks" of infection.

The US State Department is considering plans to approve its embassies and consulates to authorise the departure of their US employees in China, citing reasons for "China's epidemic situation", China's state-run Global Times reported on Tuesday, quoting a source familiar with the matter.

The US move was possibly in response to concerns raised by its diplomats in China, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

Asked for his reaction to the report, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here that China's anti-virus regulations were in line with international treaties governing the treatment of diplomatic personnel and that the country was 'undoubtedly the safest country at present'. "Evacuating from the safest place in the world will only expose US personnel to much greater risks of infection. The logic behind the US' decision is confusing and hardly justifiable," he said.

China has expressed grave concern and dissatisfaction over this to the US side, he said. "We hope the US can observe China's COVID-19 protocols, take China's position and concerns seriously and think carefully about the so-called 'authorised departure' of diplomatic and consular staff," he said. China in recent weeks has stepped up measures as Beijing and several cities reported spikes in cases, especially Delta and Omicron variants. *PTI*

EXPRESS READ

Yemen forces sweep through Marib

Cairo: Forces of Yemen's government and their United Arab Emirates-backed allies swept through a strategic central province, forcing Houthi rebels out of its second largest district, officials said on Wednesday. The development in Marib province is another setback for the Iranian-backed Houthis, who for a year attempted to take control of the oil-rich province. Their offensive crumbled when the UAE-backed Giants Brigades helped reclaim the nearby Shabwa province earlier this month before advancing in Marib under air cover from the Saudi-led coalition. Government forces and the Giants retook the district of Harib and its center south of Marib city after nearly two weeks of fighting, pushing their way to the nearby district of Juba, said Brig. Abdou Megali, a military spokesman. The Houthis had taken the two districts last year, part of their offensive on Marib. AP

IN THE COURT OF ADDITIONAL CIVIL JUDGE J.M.F.C AT DEVANAHALLI

C.Misc. No.267/2021

Between:-
Vani.J. ..... Petitioner
And:-
The Tahasildar, Devanahalli ...Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, the undersigned advocate on behalf of my client Smt Vani.J W/o Vinod.V.L, D/o Late Jayachandrappa, aged about 32 years, R/at: Byradenahalli village, Kundana Hobli, Alurududdanahalli Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District have filed the above petition for the death certificate of one Late Jayachandrappa S/o Late Appayyanna who died on 09.09.2018 at Byradenahalli village, Kundana Hobli, Alurududdanahalli Post, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. If any parties who have objections may dispute regarding the same can appear before the Hon'ble Additional Civil Judge and JMFC at Devanahalli and the date of hearing on 05/02/2022 at 11.00 A.M in C.Mis No.267/2021.

Thanking You,

By the order of this Hon'ble court

Address for service:-
Sri. N. Narasimhamurthy
Advocate
Office at:- #162,
Court Road, Maruthinagara,
Doddaballapura Town,
Bengaluru Rural District.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sri.K.Raju, S/o Sri. Krishna Poojari, has entered into an agreement to sell dated 08-12-2021 with Sri.Manjunath, S/o Late Krishnappa in respect of all that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing No. 13, BBMP Katha No. 1106/13/1115, formed in Sy.No.39, CMC Katha No.906, situated at Channasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, within the limits of BBMP, measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 40 feet, total measuring 1200 sq.feet, which property is morefully mentioned hereunder as the schedule property. Any person/s, Companies, Banks, Financial Institutions etc., asserting any right, title, interest or claim on the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the schedule property, should write to the undersigned within Seven Days from the date of issuance of this public notice with all documentary proof, after the said period my client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction on the basis that there is no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing No. 13, BBMP Katha No.1106/13/1115, formed in Sy.No.39, CMC Katha No.906, situated at Channasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, within the limits of BBMP, measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 40 feet, total measuring 1200 sq.feet, and bounded on the:

East by: Road, West by: Property No. 12, North by: Property No.6, South by: Road.

P. ANAND, Advocate
No.54/25, 2nd Floor, 8th 'E' Main, Near Jain Temple, Jayanagar, 4th Block, Bangalore-11
Mobile: 96205-42777
e-mail:anandpnayak77@gmail. com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **SMT.SOWMYA.H.J** is the owner of immovable property mentioned in the schedule hereunder and she has lost original WILL dated 17/03/1993 bearing Document No.354 / 1992-93, Book-III, Volume 89, at pages 68-72, executed by Sri.K.Siddappa executed in favour of his C.S.Balakrishna & others registered in the office of sub registrar, Basavanagudi, Bangalore., pertaining to the schedule property: In case anybody is in possession of the said document, the same shall be handover to the undersigned within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.47/1, New No.66, situated at Model House Street, Basavanagudi, Bangalore, BBMP Ward No.51, PID No.51-70-66, measuring 24 X 100 feet, in all 2400 Square feet, along with Ground, First and Second Floor House constructed therein and bounded on: **East by :** Property bearing New No.67, 67/1, Old No.48, **West by :** Property bearing New No.65, 65/1, Old No.47, **North by :** Conservancy Street, **South by :** Road (1st Model House Street Road)

N.JAGADEESH KUMAR, Advocate
No.276, 2nd Floor, 1st Main Road,
Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my client **M/s. UNITED BUILDERS**, having its Office at Sy No.39/3, 39/4 and 39/15, Panathur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, Represented by it's Managing Partners Mr. V.RAMESH BABU and Mr. K.BABU NAIDU, intends to enter into Joint Development Agreement and General power of Attorney, for all that piece and parcel of property bearing Converted Sy.No.39/3, measuring about 0 Acre 08.12 Guntas, and all that piece and parcel of property bearing Converted Sy.No.39/4, measuring about 0 Acre 13 Guntas, and all that piece and parcel of property bearing Converted Sy.No.39/15, Old Sy No.39/5, measuring about 0 Acre 03.08 Guntas, (Conversion from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose vide No.ALN(EVH)SR217/2015-16, dated: 27/07/2016, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore) all properties are situated at **Panathur Village**, **Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, totally measuring about 0 Acre 25.04 Guntas**, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface, and bounded on the: **East by :** Property bearing Sy No.104; **West by :** Property bearing Sy Nos.39/3, 39/26 and 39/14; **North by :** Road; **South by :** Property bearing Sy No 39/16 (Old Sy No.39/6);

From its owners **Mr. SUBRAMANYA.P.R,** S/o Late Sri. Kottaramayya, and family members and Others Persons/Financial Institutions/Firms having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence within **10 days** from this date of publication to the undersigned.

R. Santhosh Kumar Associates, Advocates,
Flat No.406, Motati Meadows, Nagavarapalya Main Road, Benniganahalli, Old Madras Road, C.V.Raman Nagar Post, Bangalore – 560 093.
Mobile No. 08041718108 /9886575865.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients intend purchasing the Schedule Properties. Any person/s having any right, title, interest and/or claim over the Schedule Properties or any objection for the purchase of the Schedule Properties by our clients, may lodge his/her/their claim and objection to the undersigned with documentary proof within Fifteen (15) days from today, failing which, it will be deemed that there are no claims or objections and/or that the claim/s, if any, has/have been given up and our client will proceed ahead with the transaction of purchasing the Schedule Properties as being free from all claims, encumbrance etc.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural land bearing Sy.No.256/1, measuring 22 Guntas of Chikkamaralavadi Village, Maralavad Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, and bounded on the **East by:** Sy.No.256/2, **West by:** Village Road, **North by:** Road , **South by:** Sy.No.256/3.

Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural land bearing Sy.No.256/2, measuring 8 Guntas of Chikkamaralavadi Village, Maralavad Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, and bounded on the **East by:** Sy.No.257/1, **West by:** Sy.No.256/1, **North by:** Road , **South by:** Sy.No.256/3.

Item No.3: All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural land bearing Sy.No.256/3, measuring 23 Guntas, excluding 5 Guntas of kharab land of Chikkamaralavadi Village, Maralavad Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, and bounded on the **East by:** Sy.No.257/2, **West by:** Village Road, **North by:** Sy.No.256/1 & Sy.No.256/2 , **South by:** Sy.No.256/4.

Item No.4: All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural land bearing Sy.No.256/4, measuring 27 Guntas of Chikkamaralavadi Village, Maralavad Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, and bounded on the **East by:** Sy.No.257/3, **West by:** Village Road, **North by:** Sy.No.256/3 , **South by:** Sy.No.256/5.

Item No.5: All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural land bearing Sy.No.256/5, measuring 29 Guntas of Chikkamaralavadi Village, Maralavad Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, and bounded on the **East by:** Sy.No.257/4, **West by:** Village Road, **North by:** Sy.No.256/4 , **South by:** Sy.No.256/6.

Item No.6: All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural land bearing Sy.No.256/6, measuring 25 Guntas of Chikkamaralavadi Village, Maralavad Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, and bounded on the: **East by:** Sy.No.257/5, **West by:** Village Road, **North by:** Sy.No.256/5 , **South by:** Village Road.

Item No.7: All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural land bearing Sy.No.257/1, measuring 6 Guntas of Chikkamaralavadi Village, Maralavad Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, and bounded on the **East by:** Sy.No.257/2, **West by:** Sy.No.256/2, **North by:** Sy.No.255 , **South by:** Sy.No.257/2.

Item No.8: All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural land bearing Sy.No.257/2, measuring 1 Acre 2 Guntas, excluding 2 Guntas of kharab land of Chikkamaralavadi Village, Maralavad Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, and bounded on the **East by:** Sy.No.29 & Sy.No.30, **West by:** Sy.No.256/3, **North by:** Sy.No.255 , **South by:** Sy.No.257/3 .

Item No.9: All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural land bearing Sy.No.257/3, measuring 27 Guntas, excluding 1 Guntas of kharab land of Chikkamaralavadi Village, Maralavad Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, and bounded on the: **East by:** Sy.No.27 & Sy.No.28, **West by:** Sy.No.256/4, **North by:** Sy.No.257/2 , **South by:** Sy.No.257/4.

Item No.10: All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural land bearing Sy.No.257/4, measuring 25 Guntas, excluding 1 Guntas of kharab land of Chikkamaralavadi Village, Maralavad Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, and bounded on the: **East by:** Sy.No.26, **West by:** Sy.No.256/5, **North by:** Sy.No.257/3 , **South by:** Sy.No.257/5 .

Item No.11: All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural land bearing Sy.No.257/5, measuring 27 Guntas, excluding 1 Guntas of kharab land of Chikkamaralavadi Village, Maralavad Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, and bounded on the **East by:** Sy.No.26, **West by:** Sy.No.256/6, **North by:** Sy.No.257/4 , **South by:** Sy.No.257/6 and Sy.No.257/7 .

Item No.12: All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural land bearing Sy.No.257/7, measuring 1 Acre 4 Guntas of Chikkamaralavadi Village, Maralavad Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, and bounded on the: **East by:** Sy.No.23, **West by:** Sy.No.257/6 and Sy.No.257/8, **North by:** Sy.No.257/5 , **South by:** Road.

Item No.13: All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural land bearing Sy.No.257/8, measuring 12 Guntas, excluding 2 Guntas of kharab land of Chikkamaralavadi Village, Maralavad Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District, and bounded on the: **East by:** Sy.No.257/7, **West by:** Village Road, **North by:** Sy.No.257/6, **South by:** Village Road.

Composite Property:

All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural land in Sy.No.256/1, measuring 22 Guntas, Sy.No.256/2 measuring 8 Guntas, Sy.No.256/3 measuring 23 Guntas excluding 5 Guntas of kharab land, Sy.No.256/4 measuring 27 Guntas, Sy.No.256/5 measuring 29 Guntas, Sy.No.256/6 measuring 25 guntas, Sy.No.257/1 measuring 6 Guntas, Sy.No.257/2 measuring 1 Acre 2 Guntas excluding 2 Guntas of kharab land, Sy.No.257/3 measuring 27 Guntas excluding 1 Guntas of kharab land, Sy.No.257/4 measuring 25 Guntas excluding 1 Guntas of kharab land, Sy.No.257/5 measuring 27 Guntas excluding 1 Guntas of kharab land, Sy.No.257/7 measuring 1 Acre 4 Guntas, Sy.No.257/8 measuring 12 Guntas excluding 2 Guntas of kharab land, totally measuring 7 Acres 37 Guntas, excluding 12 Guntas of kharab land, situated at Chikkamaralavadi Village, Maralavad Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and the composite property is bounded on the: **East by:** Sy.No.23,Sy.No.26,Sy.No.27,Sy.No.28& Sy.No.30, **West by:** Village Road, **North by:** Road and Sy.No.255, **South by:** Village Road.

Abhinav .R, Advocates
Kumar & Kumar Advocates,
F-113, 3rd Floor, Bengaluru Central Chambers, 2nd Main, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560 009. Date: 27.01.2022

CLASSIFIEDS

OTHERS

THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING

Thank you for blessings and favours granted. Seek your blessings always.

PUNIT, SHOBHA, NARESH.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **DAMINIE NANDA** W/o. Dinesh Kumar Nanda, Residing at #D 115, Arun Patios, Kenchenahalli, Doddaballapura Road, Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560 064, hereby declare that I have changed my name from **DAMINI RATH** to **DAMINIE NANDA** vide affidavit dated 25.01.2022 sworn to before G.R Ravichandra Reddy, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **(OLD NAME) ESWARA M.V** S/o Venkatanayak, Residing at No. Flat No. 1202, Sri Venkateshwara Nilaya, 5th Cross, 6th Main, HMT Layout, Bangalore - 560 073 have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) ESWARA M.V** to **(NEW NAME) ESHWAR M.V** vide affidavit dated 24.01.2022 sworn before Notary R. Vishwanath, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **R. USHA SPOUSE OF NO JC-313052NNB/SUBV.** RameshResiding at H.No: 2/130, Vadavirinchipuram (Vill), Kothamangalam (Post), Katpadi (Tehsil), Vellore (Dist), Tamil Nadu (State), Pin: 632104, have changed my name from **R. USHA** to **USHA .R** vide affidavit dated 24.01.2022 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SERVICE NO JC-313052N** NB/ SUB V.RAMESH OF UNIT: 8 ENGR REGT, C/O 99APO, PIN:914008, have changed my son name from **R.PUSHPA RAJ** to **PUSHPARAJ .R.** and son name from **R. JAGAN** to **JAGAN.R.** vide affidavit dated 24.01.2022 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SERVICE NO: 16133419H SPR** KAMBLE SHOURABH SANJAY OF UNIT: Y COY, TRG BN- III, MEG & CENTRE, Bangalore 560033, have changed my name from **KAMBLE SHOURABH SANJAY** to **KAMBLE SOURABH SANJAY** vide affidavit dated 07.01.2022 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **G. MAHALAKSHMI,** SPOUSE OF NO 15320184W HAV S. Santha Kumar Residing at House No 3/156, Paiyur (Vill), Arni (Taluk), Tiruvannamalai (Dist), Tamil Nadu (State), Pin: 632317, have changed my name from **G. MAHALAKSHMI** to **S. MAHALAKSHMI** vide affidavit dated 24.01.2022 Sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Kavya B,** Aged about 39 years, Daughter of Sri. K.T. Babu, R/at No.6, (Opp. 155/e), Chandrashekaran Road, Near Raghavendra Swamy Mutt, BEML 3rd Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Kenchanahalli, Bengaluru-560 098, have changed my son's name from **HITAISH S.P.** to **HITHAISH K. GOWDA** vide Affidavit dated 21.01.2022, sworn to before Advocate and Notary LB Anasuyamma, B.AL,LL.B, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ARCHITHA.V** W/o. Shashidhar.B.N, aged about 27 years, permanent address: R/at Bidarakere, K.G.Halli Post, Madhugiri Taluk, Tumkur District, Also at Present Address: 29, 5th Main, 3rd Cross, Bhuvaneshwarinagar T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore-560057 have changed my name to **HARSHITHA.V** Vide affidavit dated 25-01-2022 sworn before notary S. Vijayakumar, Bengaluru

VISTAAR FINANCE Vistaar Financial Services Pvt Ltd

Registered Office at Plot No. 59 & 60-23, 22nd Cross, 29th Main, BTM Layout Stage 2, Bengaluru– 560076

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor (s)/Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Vistaar Financial Services Private Limited under the SARFAESI Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rules 8 and 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rule pursuant to notice under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act 2002.

The Secured Assets will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is"**, and **"Whatever there is" basis on 07-03-2022** through E-Auction.

It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public through E-Auction platform provided at the **website: https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net**

1.Name of Borrower, Co- Borrower, Mortgagor 2. Account No	Descriptions of the property/Properties	A) Demand Notice Date- B) Possession date C) Outstanding Balance as per Demand Notice D)Possession	1. Reserve Price, 2. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) 3. Bid Incremental Amount	1.Date and Time of E-Auction, 2.Last Date of Submission EMD, Date and time of property Inspection
1. Mr/Mrs Prithviraj J P 2. Mr/Mrs Usha Account No-0060SBML 00479	All that piece and parcel of the immoveable property bearing Site No. 6, Doddabettahalli Village, Panchayath Khata No 51/16/16/6 Situated at Doddabettahalli Village Yelahanka Hobli Bangalore North Taluk measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to south 80 Feet and total measuring 3200 Sq Ft and **bounded on the:** East by: Owners Property; West by: Site No 7; North by: Private Property; South by: 80 Feet Road	**A)** Demand Notice Date-15-03-2021 **B)** Symbolic Possession Date: 18-06-2021 **C)** Outstanding Balance as per Demand Notice: Rs 25,85,212 /- **D)** Possession Physical date - 26-10-2021	Reserve Price **Rs. 70,00,000/-** Earnest Money Deposit(EMD) **Rs. 7,00,000/-** Bid Incremental Amount:-10,000/-	Date and Time of E-Auction **07/03/2022 at 11:30 AM** to **12:30 PM** (with unlimited extension of 5 min each) Last Date of Submission EMD with **KYC 04/03/2022 up to 5:00 PM.** Date and of Inspection **22/02/2022 and 23/02/2022** between **11.00 Am to 4.00PM**

1. All Interested participants / bidders are requested to visit the **website https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net & www.vistaarfinance.com** For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/s. e-Procurement Technologies Ltd.; Contact Mr.Ram Sharma Contact number: 8000023297/ 079-61813 6803. email id : ramprasad@auctiontiger.net , support@auctiontiger.net**
2. For further details on terms and conditions please **visit https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net & www.vistaarfinance.com** to take part in e-auction.
3. Encumbrance: No such information known to the best of the knowledge of Authorized officer. The bidders are requested to do their own due diligence
4. EMD Remittance Deposit Through **Vistaar Financial Services Pvt Ltd to the credit of Account No 910020011630601, Axis Bank Ltd , IFSC Code UTIB0000052**
5. For further details and queries, inspection of property, please contact Concerned official of **Vistaar Financial Services Private Limited Mr Manjunath (Mobile No9741378584)**

This notice should also be considered as 30 days' notice to Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Mortgagor (s)/Guarantor(s) under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule-2002

Date: 27-01-2022
Place: Bangalore

Authorized Officer
Vistaar Financial Services Pvt Ltd.,

QuoteExpress **THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED** › MARK TWAIN

$28.9 billion India's gems and jewellery exports during April-Dec 2021, up 71% from the same period a year ago, according to commerce ministry

FPIs warm up to banks amid market rout

Invest ₹1,389 cr in financial services equities during fortnight ended Jan 15; sell shares worth ₹15,766 cr in January

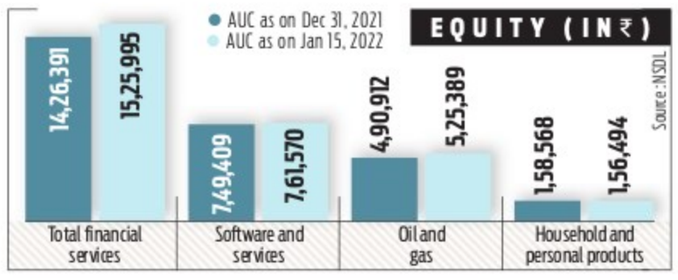
RAM SAHGAL @Mumbai

FOREIGN portfolio investors (FPIs) turned net positive on total financial service equities during the fortnight ended January 15, the first such period since the fortnight ended October 15 last year, implying that financials, especially banks, could outperform other sectors, going forward.

FPIs invested ₹1,389 crore in financial services equities during the fortnight ended January 15. The net figure includes purchases of ₹1,920 crore in the banking sector and sales of ₹531 crore in other financial services (excluding banks) such as housing finance companies, NBFCs and asset management companies, as per National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) data.

The preference for financial services, especially banks, is interesting against the backdrop of their having sold Indian shares worth ₹15,766 crore or $2.1bn so far this month.

Analysts like Rohit Srivastava, founder, IndiaCharts, attribute their shifting to financials on expectations of a pick-up in credit growth, thanks to an economic recovery amid signs of a possible abatement of the pandemic.



During the October 15 fortnight last year, they net purchased ₹537 crore in total financial services, of which banks accounted for ₹1,284 crore and other financial services to a negative ₹747 core.

Their equity assets under custody in financial services' jumped to ₹15.26 lakh cr in the Jan 15 fortnight from ₹14.26 lakh cr in the previous fortnight. Apart from cash market sales, they also turned bearish on index futures — largely Nifty — last Friday for the first time since Nov 10, 2021. On January 25, just ahead of the US Fed meet, they were net short 20778 index futures contracts along with being sellers in the cash market.

Ease of biz: Budget may allow SEZs to sell services to local units in rupee

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THE Budget 2022 could announce a few changes in the rules governing Special Economic Zones (SEZs), people who had pre-budget discussions with the government told *TNIE*.

The commerce ministry has hinted in the past about simplifying SEZ rules to make them more attractive for businesses, and the budget could see some announcements on this front.

One of the likely announcements could be allowing SEZ to supply services to Domestic Tariff Areas (DTAs) in local currency. At present, SEZs could sell goods to DTAs in Indian currency, but any payment for supply of services to DTAs needs to be in foreign currency.

This creates trouble for domestic entities looking to procure services from SEZs, which are considered foreign territories. In order to do business with SEZ, domestic units need to convert Indian currency into foreign currency and make payments for the services procured by SEZ units.

Industry experts say that if SEZ units don't receive payments in foreign currencies they are sent notices by the revenue department and they are denied their SEZ status.

This has been a long-pending demand of the SEZ units, and despite several assurances in the past, the demand remains unfulfilled. However, of late the commerce ministry has been talking about simplification of SEZ rules to make them more attractive, and this gives the industry a hope that the budget could see an announcement on this front.

Also, the government has been talking about allowing the SEZs to supply goods and services to DTAs without the need to pay customs duties.

BUDGET FY2023 RUN-UP

Brokerages give 'subscribe' rating to Adani Wilmar IPO

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

DESPITE a not so encouraging performance of newly listed IPOs on the domestic bourses, most brokerages have given a 'subscribe' rating to the Adani Wilmar IPO.

Incorporated in 1999 as a joint venture between Adani Group and Wilmar Group of Singapore, Adani Wilmar (AWL) is a FMCG player who is floating its ₹3,600 crore initial public offering (IPO) on January 27. The IPO will close on January 31. On January 26, share of the company were commanding the grey market premium (GMP) of 25%.

"In terms of valuations, the post-issue TTM (trailing 12 months) P/E (price-earning ratio) works out to 37.6x (at the upper end of the issue price band), which is reasonable considering AWL's historical top-line & bottom-line CAGR of 13% and 39% respectively over FY19-21. Further, Adani Wilmar has strong brand recall, wide distribution, better financial track record and healthy ROE. Considering all the positive factors, we believe this valuation is at reasonable levels. Thus, we recommend a subscribe rating on the issue," analysts at Angel One said in a note.

The AWL shares will be offered at ₹218-230 apiece. Investors can bid for a minimum 65 shares and in multiples of 65 thereafter. The company, known mainly for Fortune brand of edible oil, has already mobilised ₹939.9 crore from 15 anchor investors. Coming to company's financials, its profit grew from ₹376 crore in FY19 to ₹728 in FY21 while net sales grew from ₹28,797 crore in FY19 to ₹37,090 crore in FY21.

Similarly Analysts at Choice Broking and Ventura also gave it a 'subscribe' rating.

"Over FY21-24, we expect Adani Wilmar to grow revenues at a robust CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 16.7% to ₹58,959 crore spearheaded by the FMCG vertical which is set to grow at a CAGR 31.5% to reach ₹4,338 crore," said Ventura Securities in a note.

It added, "We initiate with a 'subscribe for long term' with a 24-month price target of ₹468.8 per share (48.6x FY24 earnings) representing an upside potential of 103.8% from the upper price band," the report said.

FFABINDIA TO GIFT 7 LAKH PLUS SHARES

Lifestyle brand FabIndia, which has been eyeing to raise ₹4,000 crore through an initial public offer, has plans to gift more than 700,000 shares to artisans and farmers. The company in its draft paper said that in order to "reward and express gratitude to certain artisans and farmers engaged with the company or its subsidiaries", FabIndia's two promoters — Bimla Nanda Bissell and Madhukar Khera — intend to transfer 400,000 shares and 375,080 shares, respectively, to them. The Azim Premzi's firm PremjiInvest runs more than 300 outlets in India and a couple of dozens overseas.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

LODHA

Current Price ₹1,280

Target Price ₹1,700

Decadal low interest rate, stagnant prices over the last 7 years, and rising income base have driven the affordability quotient. LODHA is expected to benefit from: a) its ₹200 b of completed and near-complete inventory, b) ₹40b of QIP money, c) monetisation of industrial land banks and ready commercial projects, and 4) substantial deleveraging potential through robust cash flow.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *TNIE*

TCS, Infosys among world's most valuable brands

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@Bengaluru

INDIAN IT services companies Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys have surpassed the US competitors in brand value, as they have taken the No 2 and No 3 spots, respectively, in the brand valuation firm Brand Finance's annual report.

Accenture has retained the most valuable brand title for the fourth consecutive year with its brand value increasing by 39% over the past year to $36.2 billion.

According to the Brand Finance 2022 Global 500 IT Services Ranking report, TCS grew its brand value by $1.844 billion (12.5%) to $16.786 billion over the last 12 months. This growth is attributed to the company's investments in its brand and its employees, customer equity and strong financial performance.

Company	Rank	Brand value
Accenture	1	$36.2 billion
TCS	2	$16.786 billion
Infosys	3	$12.8 billion
IBM	4	$10.6 billion
Wipro	7	$6.3 billion
HCL	8	$6.1 billion
Tech Mahindra	15	$3.0 billion
LTI	22	$1.1 billion

Infosys has seen the fastest increase in its brand value and recorded an 80% gain

Both TCS and Infosys have beaten IBM to take the second and third spot, respectively. IBM's brand value drops out of top 3 and now stands at $10.6 billion with a 34% decrease from the previous year, and a 50% drop overall since 2020.

According to the report, the brand value of IBM has fallen significantly after the divestment of Kyndryl. The sale caused a loss of over $19 billion in revenue.

"This great achievement is the result of strong financial growth, strong and continued investments in a new global brand positioning last year, further investment in the sponsorship of marathon events, but also new sports such as the move into Formula-E," said David Haigh, Chairman and CEO, Brand Finance.

Also, IT major Infosys has seen the fastest increase in brand value from among all brands in the ranking this year. Following 52% growth to $12.8 billion, the brand has recorded an 80% gain.

The company has made strategic investments in several digital and brand collaborations.

Apart from TCS and Infosys, Wipro (7th), HCL (8th), Tech Mahindra (15th), and LTI (22nd) have also established themselves among the global elite.

Reliance, BP JV firm launches new EV charging hub in Delhi

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

MUKESH Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and energy major BP on Wednesday has opened one of the country's largest EV charging hubs in Delhi with BluSmart as its primary customer.

Reliance BP Mobility Limited, operating under the brand name Jio-BP, is working with multiple demand aggregators, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and technology partners with a vision of being the leading EV charging infrastructure player in India, said RIL in its Q3 earnings announcement.

"Jio-BP has constructed and launched one of the country's largest EV charging hubs in Dwarka, Delhi with BluSmart as its primary customer," said the company in a statement.

RBML had launched its first Jio-BP branded mobility station at Navde, Navi Mumbai in October last year. BP had bought a 49% stake in over 1,400 petrol pumps and 31 aviation turbine fuel (ATF) stations owned by Reliance for $1 billion in 2019. Subsequently, the existing petrol pumps of Reliance were transferred to the joint venture, which plans to scale them up to 5,500 by 2025. RIL holds the remaining 51% stake in RBML.

Petrol pumps with RBML have since increased to 1,448, according to the latest information available from the petroleum ministry.

Jio-BP is looking to set up a network of EV charging stations and battery swap stations, at its petrol pumps, which the firms refer to as 'mobility stations', and other standalone locations - mobility points.

'ADDITIVISED FUEL AT NO EXTRA COST'

Jio-BP mobility stations will offer additivised fuel, at no extra cost. The fuel will contain internationally developed 'ACTIVE' technology, which protects critical engine parts, the company said.

Oil prices jump to $90/barrel, highest since 2014

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

OIL prices in the international market rose to the highest level since 2014 on Wednesday as Brent Crude Future surged to $90 per barrel.

The reason for the steep hike in the oil prices, analysts believe is the ongoing geopolitical tensions in Europe and East. There is a fear of potential supply disruption in the Middle East as Yemen's Houthi movement launched a missile attack on a United Arab Emirates base. In Europe, Russian military buildup on the border of Ukraine has escalated tensions between two the two countries.

On Wednesday, Brent crude rose $1.27 to $89.47 after reaching $89.87 and West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was up $1.02 to $86.62.

The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies, known as OPEC+ is set to meet on February 2 to consider another output increase.

However, the price rise doesn't have any impact on domestic fuel prices in India. The last time prices were changed was on Nov 4, 2021, when the central government cut excise duty. A litre of petrol in Delhi costs ₹95.41, while the price of diesel is ₹ 86.67 per litre. In Mumbai, the price of petrol is ₹109.98 per litre, in Kolkata it costs ₹104.67 and ₹101.40 per litre in Chennai.

Figaro's Pizza forays into Indian market

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

AMERICAN QSR restaurant chain Figaro's Pizza has partnered with market entry firm FranGlobal for their India foray. The brand plans to open 250 stores in India over the next four years.

FranGlobal will work with Figaro's team for menu and product development. "We have already started working with real estate developers for initial key locations," FranGlobal said, adding the company is looking to acquire different brand assets under a Master Licensee or Franchise structure over the next few years.

According to Venus Barak, CEO, FranGlobal, the acquisition of Figaro's Pizza is a turning point in the company's asset business as the primary pizza market is currently dominated by two legacy American players 'Domino's ' and Pizza Hut alongside local chains.

"You will find this quite skewed in comparison with the burger/sandwich market. With more than forty years in the business in the US and globally, Figaro's has inherent strong SOPs and strengths which if accompanied with local market variables can become a powerful offering to our partners and customers," Barak said.

Ron Berger, CEO - Figaro's Pizza, said, "We aim to expand planet-wide. The management team has extensive experience in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and Latin America, and is pushing for rapid global expansion."

Founded in 1981, Figaro's started with the 'take-and-bake' pizza concept.

EXPRESS READ

JB Chemicals to buy Sanzyme brands

JB Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals (JBCPL) will pay ₹628 crore to acquire brands for the Indian market from Sanzyme, which is involved in the probiotics and reproductive health segment. Post the transaction JBCPL will become among the top five probiotics players in India.

Vedanta demerger call by March-end

Metals and mining group Vedanta Ltd. will announce the contours of a proposal to spin off key businesses into separate companies by March-end, its chairman Anil Agarwal said, as he looks to simplify and streamline the corporate structure to create value.

Newgen Software bets big on cloud biz; to continue its hiring strategy

UMA KANNAN @Bengaluru

NET PROFIT AT `48 CR IN Q3

The company's third quarter net profit was ₹48 crore and its total income for the quarter ended December 2021 was ₹210 crore. Its subscription revenues have witnessed 20% growth Y-o-Y.

DIGITAL transformation company Newgen Software, which recently acquired Number Theory, an AI/ML data science platform, has been witnessing an increase in its cloud business and also a steady rise in existing customers adopting the cloud model.

In an interaction with *TNIE*, Virender Jeet, CEO, Newgen Software, said, "We are seeing traction as enterprises take a platform-first approach and rely on digital transformation platforms for business value. We expect the growth streak to continue in 2022 as well."

The company says that in 2022, enterprises will continue to invest in new-age technologies such as—AI/ML-led technologies, low code platforms, and automation of content-centric business processes.

According to Forrester, the artificial intelligence software market will approach $37 billion by 2025. Also, Gartner predicts that by 2024, 70% of enterprises will use cloud and cloud-based AI infrastructure to operationalise AI.

Talking about the acquisition, Jeet said that Number Theory is its very first acquisition. "This acquisition will further strengthen our low code digital transformation platform, NewgenONE, with AI/ML modeling and data analytics capabilities," he said.

The company's third quarter net profit was ₹48 crore and its total income was ₹210 crore. The company, which has a market cap of over ₹4,040 crore, is also planning to continue its hiring strategy.

'Budget must include gender-equitable measures'

SAMIKSHA GOEL @New Delhi

TO enable a gender-responsive economic recovery, the government can consider incentivising the private sector for undertaking gender-equitable measures at workplaces, in the Budget 2022, according to a research paper by the Quantum Hub (TQH) and the Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy (IWWAGE) at LEAD.

Corporations can be offered tax holidays or other incentives if they have undertaken measures such as provision of onsite childcare, flexible work schedules, etc, says the report.

In the pandemic year of 2020, it was observed that women were more likely to lose job and not return to work.

Research centre IWWAGE suggests the government should look at women-specific centres for upskilling and reskilling.

"The role of these centres would be to provide skills relevant to the market," said the report, adding investments should be made towards providing business skills, digital skills, and soft skills to women.

The report also suggests an increase in the allocations for the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) with specific incentives for employers to take on female apprentices will raise their probability of staying on in the job.

The central and/or state governments could consider introducing urban employment schemes, with one-third or half the jobs reserved for women, the report suggests. Such schemes currently exist in Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Jharkhand, Kerala, West Bengal, and Himachal Pradesh.

As per a 2019 report by Google and Bain & Company, India has 13.5-15.7 million women-owned enterprises, which were more vulnerable to the covid shocks than those led by men.

Capex of CPSEs under coal ministry grows 28.33%

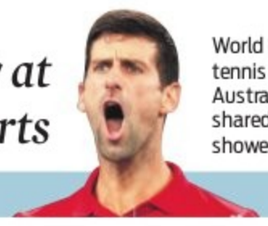
ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@New Delhi

THE government on Wednesday said the Ministry of Coal, through its CPSEs, has registered a 28.33% year-on-year growth in capex at ₹12,605.75 crore for the period ending December 2021. This capex achievement is also 75% of the ministry's annual target.

"As compared to last year's achievement of ₹9,822.28 crore for period up to December, 2020, Coal Ministry CPSE's have done capex of ₹12,605.75 crore, thereby giving a major impetus to the Covid-struck economy," said the coal ministry in a statement.

Coal India (CIL), one of the CPSEs under the ministry, had earlier said that its capex jumped more than two-fold to ₹1,840 crore in the first quarter of FY22 against ₹844 cr a year ago.

Djokovic set to play at Dubai Open: reports



World No 1 Novak Djokovic has signed up to play at next month's ATP Dubai tennis tournament, reports said on Wednesday, after his deportation from Australia prevented a tilt at a record 21st Grand Slam title. A leaked entry list shared by tennis journalists on social media and picked up by several outlets showed Djokovic named as the top seed for the February 21-26 event.

Last women standing

Barty and Swiatek are the favourites to advance from their respective semifinal match-ups. A look at the two clashes...

BARTY		KEYS
1	Ranking	51
25	Age	26
1	'22 titles	1
14	Overall titles	6
2	H2H	1

COLLINS		SWIATEK
30	Ranking	9
28	Age	20
0	'22 titles	0
2	Overall titles	3
0	H2H	1

1 Barty is seeking a first final at the Australian Open.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

(quarterfinals)

Women: Danielle Collins bt Alize Cornet 7-5, 6-1, Iga Swiatek bt Kaia Kanepi 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-3.

Men: Stefanos Tsitsipas bt Jannik Sinner 6-3, 6-4, 6-2, Daniil Medvedev bt Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-7 (4), 3-6, 7-6 (2), 7-5, 6-4.

SEMIFINALS LINE-UP

Men (on Friday): Rafa Nadal vs Matteo Berrettini, Stefanos Tsitsipas vs Daniil Medvedev.

Women (on Thursday): Collins vs Swiatek, Barty vs Keys

FROM 2.00 PM, SONY SPORTS NETWORKS

MELBOURNE AUGURS WELL FOR MEDVEDEV

Russian saves match point before engineering epic turnaround to advance to the semifinal

AFP @Melbourne

MEN'S title favourite Daniil Medvedev fought back from the brink of a shock exit on Wednesday to reach the Australian Open semifinal and keep his dream of a second Grand Slam crown alive.

Medvedev looked down and out as he lost the opening two sets to Canadian 21-year-old sensation Felix Auger-Aliassime before mounting a remarkable turnaround.

The Russian saved a match point at 4-5, 30-40 in the fourth set before completing an astonishing revival to beat the ninth seed 6-7 (4), 3-6, 7-6 (2), 7-5, 6-4 in a marathon 4hr 42min quarterfinal that finished well after midnight on Rod Laver Arena.

Asked how he managed to win, the US Open champions Medvedev admitted: "I have no idea.

"I just fought to the last point and manage to raise my level." It sets up a repeat of last year's semifinal against Stefanos Tsitsipas, which Medvedev won in straight sets before going on to lose to Novak Djokovic in the championship match. The Russian, perhaps cheekily, also paid homage to Djokovic's own powers of recovery by admitting that he thought what the Serb would do before staging his remarkable recovery. "I was not playing my best and Felix was playing unbelievable. He was all over me and I do not know what to do. So I thought to myself — and some people won't like this — what would Novak do?"

The Greek fourth seed Tsitsipas was earlier in rampant form as he destroyed Jannik Sinner 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. By contrast to Medvedev's struggles, Tsitsipas made serene progress in a two-hour afternoon romp halted only by rain, which caused a brief delay for the Rod Laver Arena roof to be shut and the court to be mopped dry.

The change in conditions made no difference to a dominant, flawless performance from the World No 4 who grasped control from the get go and never relinquished it.

Meanwhile, the women's semifinal line-up was completed by Danielle Collins and Iga Swiatek who enjoyed vastly contrasting wins.

Collins swept past unseeded Alize Cornet in just 88 minutes to match her run to the last four in 2019 and shatter the French veteran's dream of making a first Grand Slam semifinal.

But seventh seed Swiatek had to fight back from a set and a break down against unseeded Estonian Kaia Kanepi.

The 20-year-old Swiatek proved too dogged as she outlasted Kanepi, who is 16 years her senior, 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-3 after a marathon 3hr 1min encounter in energy-sapping heat.

"I had so many break points (nine) in the first set that I felt like I missed my chances," said Swiatek, the 2020 French Open champion.

"I was pretty annoyed and I should have been focused on the next point. And that's what I did in the second set."

Top seed Ashleigh Barty will face unseeded American Madison Keys in the other last-four clash on Thursday for a place in Saturday's final.

Daniil Medvedev reacts after winning the fourth set on Wednesday | AFP

Our dreams are gone forever: India coach Dennerby slams AFC

MARTIN JOSEPH @Kochi

THE response finally came after an eerie silence from the Indian camp. After a Covid-hit Indian team was forced to withdraw from the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup, head coach Thomas Dennerby carried out what was an emotional, explosive and no holds barred press conference while trying to give their side of the story.

"This is my worst feeling as a head coach ever. The team and I are devastated and our dreams are forever gone," said Dennerby during a virtual media interaction on Wednesday.

The Swedish coach blamed the AFC for the situation and suggested that the confederation could have considered India's case instead of disqualifying them after India couldn't field a team for their second game against Chinese Taipei.

"Honestly, we are not happy with the AFC tournament organisation or the lack of solutions or active dialogue. We think that in one way they destroyed our dreams. But we are not blaming the whole AFC organisation. AFC is a good organisation in total," he said.

According to the rules, a team needs a minimum of 13 players to participate in a match which India failed to meet as rule 4.1 came into force.

Dennerby suggested that the Indian contingent took all safety precautions and were all negative when entering the bio-bubble for the tournament. According to him, the virus caught on inside the bio-bubble, possibly from the hotel staff.

According to him, the staff were tested on January 17th but the results were delayed and when the results came, many had tested positive.

"The result of the test was given to the AFC on the 18th. But AFC did not send the results to the hotel until the 19th. Seven hotel staff got infected with Covid, including the team India coordinator, kitchen staff, chef, housekeeping, service staff and all those who were taking care of us while we were quarantined. Why didn't the AFC send the report earlier? Why wait the whole day? I think that was an unprofessional way to handle it in an AFC bubble, no explanation can be good enough," he said.

Full story on newindianexpress.com

Kuldeep & Hooda in ODI team, Bhuvi out

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

BHUVNESHWAR Kumar's omission and the inclusion of Deepak Hooda were the big headlines in India's 18-man squad for the ODIs against West Indies to be played in Ahmedabad from February 6. Rajasthan's 21-year-old leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi received a maiden call-up to the ODI and T20 squads to be captained by Rohit Sharma as the selectors also recalled wrist-spinner, Kuldeep Yadav, to the side. Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami have been rested for the series and will be available for Sri Lanka series at the end of February.

As reported by this newspaper, from the team that played in South Africa, R Ashwin didn't make the cut because of niggle and Venkatesh Iyer has been dropped from the ODI team. However, he finds a place in the T20I team. It is understood that the selectors went by the feedback of the team management and believe the all-rounder needs time to develop into a regular option in the 50-overs.

Himachal Pradesh's Rishi Dhawan and Tamil Nadu's Shahrukh Khan's names were also discussed for ODI and T20Is, respectively, but were excluded for now as they might not get game-time. While the two had performed exceedingly well in the domestic tournaments and were worthy of a call-up, the inclusion of Hooda and Kuldeep is surprising.

In fact, the former didn't really have a good outing with the bat for Rajasthan in the Vijay Hazare Trophy and was not even in the list of the team's top-three run makers.

With regards to Kuldeep, who last played for India in July before missing the second-leg of the IPL because of a knee injury, it is understood that the selectors went for the left-arm wrist-spinner as he can be a wicket-taking option in the middle-overs. With Yuzvendra Chahal also around, it also signals India going back to the wrist-spinners in the ODIs, with one of them to play a role with Ravindra Jadeja in the mix.

Others who have returned to the squad include Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Avesh Khan and Harshal Patel.

ODI squad: Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul (Vice-captain), Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shikhar Dhawan, Virat Kohli, Surya Kumar Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Deepak Chahar, Shardul Thakur, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Avesh Khan

T20I squad: Rohit Sharma (Captain), KL Rahul (Vice-captain), Ishan Kishan, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Surya Kumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wicket-keeper), Venkatesh Iyer, Deepak Chahar, Shardul Thakur, Ravi Bishnoi, Axar Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal, Washington Sundar, Mohammed Siraj, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Avesh Khan, Harshal Patel.

EXPRESS READ

India pipped by fighting Korea in semifinal

MUSCAT: The Indian women's hockey team's hopes of defending the Asia Cup title went up in smoke as Korea secured a come-from-behind 2-3 win to qualify for the final of the continental event at the Sultan Qaboos Complex here on Wednesday.

Former India and K'taka footballer no more

BENGALURU: Former Indian footballer and Santosh Trophy winning member of the then Mysore state, AD Nagendra, passed away on Wednesday. The defender, who was a former treasurer of KSFA, was 79 years old.

Bengaluru cruise past Chennaiyin in ISL

ASHIM SUNAM @Bengaluru

AFTER a below-par start to the season, Bengaluru FC have gradually grown into the season with the Blues enjoying an unbeaten seven-match streak, including a 3-0 win over Chennaiyin FC at the GMC Athletic Stadium on Wednesday. Goals from Iman Basafa (12') and Udanta Singh (42', 52') helped them seal three points and move to sixth place with 17 points. Meanwhile Chennaiyin, who only lost a single game in their first six, have lost four in the next seven.

It has to be said that both the teams were not at full strength on Wednesday. If Bengaluru did not have Cleiton Silva and Gurpreet Singh Sandhu in the squad, Chennaiyin did not have the services of their star player Anirudh Thapa as well.

The first big chance fell to Chennaiyin's Lukasz Gikiewicz after Parag Shrivas miscued his clearance, but his close-range shot was saved by goalkeeper Lara Sharma in the ninth minute. Three minutes later, Bengaluru were awarded a penalty, which was converted by Basafa, his first goal for the club.

Bengaluru, after taking the lead, were quite compact in defence. They did not provide their opponents free space, making life difficult for the likes of Gikiewicz and others upfront. Even when they had the ball on their feet, Chennaiyin players tried to test Lara in goal from 18 yards out or so, but he was not troubled much. Just three minutes before the break, some unselfish play by Chhetri, who took out four defenders in the box allowed Udanta a simple goal.

With Chennaiyin trailing by two goals, they decided to bring in Rahim Ali with the hope of making a difference upfront at the start of the second half. However, things went from bad to worse as Udanta scored his second of the night to make it 3-0. It was always going to be an uphill task to come back from such a deficit, but Božidar Bandovic decided to bring on striker Nerijus Valskis. Overall, in the second half, Chennaiyin did look decent on the ball, but their final pass was found wanting many times.

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
BUILDINGS AND ROADS (SOUTH) DIVISION
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

No. 893/PW/BRS/DB/2021-22 Puducherry, the 25.01.2022

PMGSY-II 2020-21 ROADS AND CULVERT WORKS-III CALL
PRESS NOTICE FOR e-TENDER

1. For details, visit www.pmgsytenderspy.nic.in
2. E-bids are invited by the Chief Engineer, PWD., of Puducherry District for the Construction & Maintenance of PMGSY-II Rural Roads, packages wise, under two cover system.
3. The package wise bid documents can be downloaded from www.pmgsytenderspy.nic.in
4. Common date and time for downloading of Bid document, submission and opening
   (i) Availability of NIT for downloading of Bid document from : 10.00 A.M. on 31.01.2022.
   (ii) Closing time for submission of e-Tender : 08.02.2022 - 4.00 PM
   (iii) Date & Time of Opening of Tender (Part-I Technical bid document) : 08.02.2022 - 4.30 PM

"FINANCIAL BID OPENING DATE & TIME WILL BE INTIMATED"

Executive Engineer,
No. 312/DIP/AD/(PRESS)/2021-22 Buildings and Roads (South) P.W.D., Puducherry

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION BOARD
6TH Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-03 Ph:23349434 Fax: 23347670
No: B3/P.M.S.O&L.06/2021-22 Date: 24.01.2022

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Director, Examinations, Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board, hereby invites tenders from eligible bidders for the **"Supply of pre-printed S.S.L.C. marks cards along with over printing of Variable data, and Lamination of the same pertaining to 2022 S.S.L.C. Examinations"** as per K.T.P.P. Act 1999 and K.T.P.P. Rules, 2000 through e-procurement portal only. Tender document may be downloaded from Board website **www.sslc.karnataka.gov.in** or e-procurement website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Tender commences on **27.01.2022,** Tender pre-bid meeting on **31.01.2022 at 12.00 pm** in the office of the Director, Exams, last date for submission **11.02.2022 at 4-00 PM,** opening of technical bid on **15.02.2022 at 4.00 Pm,** opening of commercial bid tentatively on **18.02.2022 at 4.00 PM,** approximate value of tender is **Rs. 59,64,000/-**(Excluding GST), tender EMD is **Rs. 1,19,300/-.** Further details can be obtained from the Board during office hours.

Sd/- Director, Exams

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I the under signed bring to the notice of the General Public that my client **SRI. HARISH APPAREDDY,** Son of Late A. C. Appareddy, Residing at No. 243/2, West of Chord Road, Opp. Power House, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore – 560 010, is intended to purchase the Schedule Property as mentioned hereunder from its owner **M/s. FOMENTO RESOURCES PRIVATE LIMITED,** a Company registered under the Indian Companies Act 1956, with Corporate Identification **Number is (CIN) U13209GA2010PTC006440,** having registered office at No. 102, 1st Floor, Kamat Metropolis-I, Behind Caculo Mall, St Inez Panaji, North Goa - 403001. If any person/s, company, bank, financial institutions etc., has/having any claim or objection for the proposed purchase or having any right, title, interest, possession over the Schedule Property, shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/claims within Ten (10) days from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of Residential Plot bearing No. 5 now bearing Municipal No. 26/12, PID No. 78-121-26/12, situated at Abshot Layout, Sankey Road, in Ward No. 78 – Vasanth Nagar, Bangalore admeasuring 6095 Square Feet and bounded on the: -

East by : Mount Carmel College **North by :** Private Property
West by : Old Site No.4 & Private Layout Road **South by :** Old Site No. 6.

Mr.HARSHAVARDHANA. Advocate, No. 1/3, Jeevan Building, Kumara Park East, Bangalore – 560 001 Mob : 97411 89433

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521
No.908/BGK/SEE/AEE(C)/Tr.(W&M)/2021-22/6219-30 Date: 25-01-2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited, invites bids from the Registered civil contractors having KPWD & EPF and ESI registration for **Repairs and Maintenance and Capital Civil Engineering works coming under the jurisdiction of Superintending Engineer (Elecl), Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Bagalkot.**

The tenders will be received through **e-Procurement portal only.** The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 05.30 PM, 25.01.2022.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer (Ele).,**
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Zonal Office Complex,
Opp. to Sector No. 45, Navanagar, Bagalkot-587103
Tel: 08354-236032 , Fax: 08354- 236029

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL JUDGE AT BANGALORE
O.S. No. 269 / 2021
BETWEEN: Mrs. Ayesha Gulzar ...Plaintiff
AND:
Mr. Ali Bunty ...Defendant
NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT

To, **Mr. Ali Bunty,** Son of Manikchand Jain, Aged about 41 years, Residing at No. 1, N. Narayanapura Layout, Anjaneya Temple, Mahadevapura Outer Ring Road, Bengaluru.

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed the above plaint under section 26 Read with Order VII Rule 1 of CPC R/W section 2 (ii), (iv), (viii) (a) of Dissolution of Muslim Marriage Act 1939 against the Defendant for the Decree of Divorce of the marriage and such other relief. You are hereby summoned to appear in person or through a pleader duly instructed before II Additional Family Court, Bengaluru.

Take notice, that in default of your appear appearance **on the 3rd day of March 2022 at 11.00 a.m.** The petition will be heard and determined in your absence, placing you as ex-parte.

Issued under my hand and seal of this Court on this 25th day of January 2022.

By order of the Court, Sheristedar, Family Court, Bangalore.

Advocate for Plaintiff: **Kantharaj,** Advocate F-13, D.No. 11, 1st Floor, VMC Complex, 10th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru-560002.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that our clients have proposed to purchase the Schedule Property mentioned hereunder from its present owner **Smt. RATHNAMMA W/o. Nagaraj,** person/persons objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right of share in title and interest in the schedule property may lodge their objections/claims with the under singed along with supporting documentary evidence with in 7 days from this day of publication and any objection / claims received there after will not be binding on our clients and our clients will be proceed to purchase the below mentioned schedule property as if there are no claims / objections.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of an immovable vacant property bearing **Sy.No.182/5B, measuring 9 Acres, 8 Guntas (Nine Acres Eight Guntas), situated at Katanakallu Village, Nagaragere Hobli, Gauribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapura Dist.,** and bounded on the

East by : Sy.No.182, 1, 2, 3, property,
West by : Bangi Chikkapapaiah property,
North by : Sy.No.182/5A2 Property,
South by : Hanumantharayappa and Tugapalli Narayanappa's Property

Mahesh .S and Associates, Advocates
Office : # 103/104, 2nd Cross, Surabhi Nagar, JP. Nagar 8th Phase, Near Jumbu Savari Dinne Water Tank, Bengaluru - 560 076.

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BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE
EXPRESS CONNECTS
EVERY **MONDAY** For details: **92443 17292**

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
CENTRAL OFFICES -DEPT. ACCOUNTS
Post Bag No. 2778, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027
No.: KST/CO/ACC/BS/LOAN/3436/2021-22 Date: 25.01.2022

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Sub: Availment of Rs. 220 Crores Term Loan for clearance of Outstanding dues.

Government of Karnataka vide letter No TD: 34:TCB 2021 dated 17.01.2022 has accorded approval to avail term Loan of **Rs. 220 Crores** (Rupees Two Hundred Twenty Crores only) to meet the outstanding dues of the Corporation. Accordingly, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation intend to avail term loan on following terms and conditions:

1. Fixed Assets owned by the Corporation will be offered as collateral security.
2. Loan amount will be drawn in one trench.
3. Amount will be utilized for repayment of outstanding dues.
4. The tenure of the Loan shall be for a period of **Seven years.**
5. Re-payment of instalment after a Moratorium period of 6 Months.
6. Offer is invited to sanction the Loan at One Month / 3 Months / Half Year / yearly MCLR / RLLR Rate of the Bank. KSRTC reserves the right to avail the loan at the rate which is most beneficial to the Corporation.
7. Payment of processing fee / up-front fee / pre-payment charges / Annual inspection charges or any other charges, shall be waived.
8. KSRTC reserves the right to vary terms, conditions, pre-close and amend tenure of the proposed loan.
9. KSRTC reserve rights to amend the period, and accept / reject the Tender Notification.
10. All Scheduled and Nationalized Banks can participate **in the tender** and shall submit their proposal in a **sealed cover,** addressed to 'CAO-FA, KSRTC CENTRAL OFFICES, K.H. Road, Shanthi Nagar, Bengaluru-560 027, super scribed with **"Expression of Interest for sanction of Term Loan of Rs. 220 Crores"**.
11. The Expression of Interest shall be submitted on or before **08.02.2022** at **4:00 p.m.**

Sd/-,
Chief Accounts Officer cum Financial Advisor

DIPR/DDU/LC/3027/2021-22

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

According to the report, "the case of India is particularly worrying. While the country's score has remained stagnant over the past decade, some of the mechanisms that could help reign in corruption are weakening".

"In Central Asia, many political leaders used Covid-19 as a smokescreen to introduce new restrictions on rights and accountability during last year, while populist govts in Eastern Europe have cracked down on freedoms of expression and assembly needed to call out corruption."

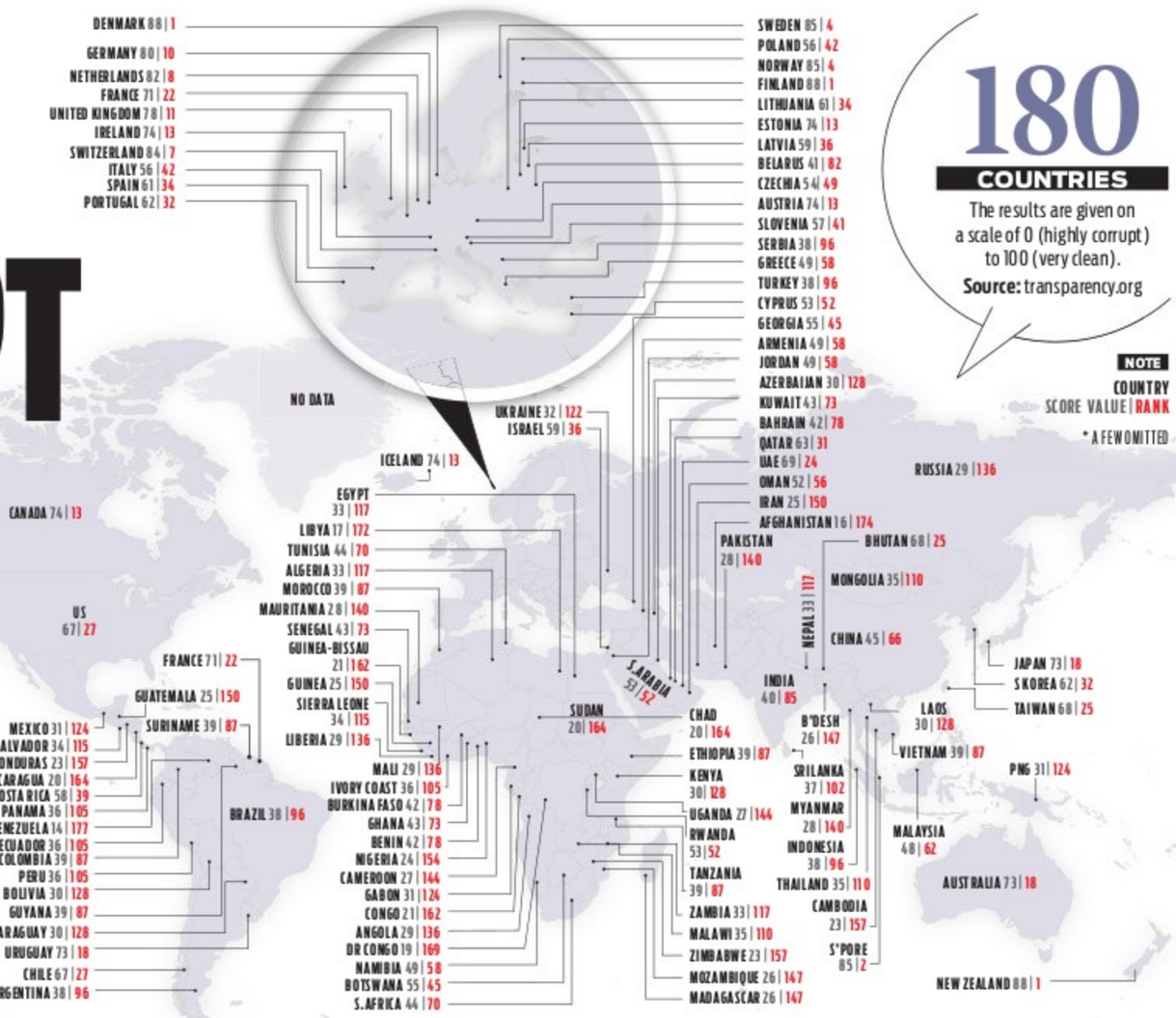
The latest report by Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) reveals that corruption levels this year are at a worldwide standstill. The CPI ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption. Here's a lowdown...

HOW CORRUPT

WHERE IS YOUR COUNTRY PLACED?

50/100 — 2/3 OF NATIONS SCORE BELOW 50

43/100 — THE AVERAGE SCORE


DENMARK 88 | 1
GERMANY 80 | 10
NETHERLANDS 82 | 8
FRANCE 71 | 22
UNITED KINGDOM 78 | 11
IRELAND 74 | 13
SWITZERLAND 84 | 7
ITALY 56 | 42
SPAIN 61 | 34
PORTUGAL 62 | 32
SWEDEN 85 | 4
POLAND 56 | 42
NORWAY 85 | 4
FINLAND 88 | 1
LITHUANIA 61 | 34
ESTONIA 74 | 13
LATVIA 59 | 36
BELARUS 41 | 82
CZECHIA 54 | 49
AUSTRIA 74 | 13
SLOVENIA 57 | 41
SERBIA 38 | 96
GREECE 49 | 58
TURKEY 38 | 96
CYPRUS 53 | 52
GEORGIA 55 | 45
ARMENIA 49 | 58
JORDAN 49 | 58
AZERBAIJAN 30 | 128
KUWAIT 43 | 73
BAHRAIN 42 | 78
QATAR 63 | 31
UAE 69 | 24
OMAN 52 | 56
IRAN 25 | 150
AFGHANISTAN 16 | 174
PAKISTAN 28 | 140
BHUTAN 68 | 25
MONGOLIA 35 | 110
CHINA 45 | 66
NEPAL 33 | 112
INDIA 40 | 85
JAPAN 73 | 18
S KOREA 62 | 32
TAIWAN 68 | 25
LAOS 30 | 128
VIETNAM 39 | 87
PNG 31 | 124
B'DESH 26 | 147
SRILANKA 37 | 102
MYANMAR 28 | 140
INDONESIA 38 | 96
THAILAND 35 | 110
CAMBODIA 23 | 157
S'PORE 85 | 2
MALAYSIA 48 | 62
AUSTRALIA 73 | 18
NEW ZEALAND 88 | 1
RUSSIA 29 | 136
UKRAINE 32 | 122
ISRAEL 59 | 36
ICELAND 74 | 13
NO DATA
CANADA 74 | 13
US 67 | 27
FRANCE 71 | 22
GUATEMALA 25 | 150
SURINAME 39 | 87
MEXICO 31 | 124
EL SALVADOR 34 | 115
HONDURAS 23 | 157
NICARAGUA 20 | 164
COSTA RICA 58 | 39
PANAMA 36 | 105
VENEZUELA 14 | 177
ECUADOR 36 | 105
COLOMBIA 39 | 87
PERU 36 | 105
BOLIVIA 30 | 128
GUYANA 39 | 87
PARAGUAY 30 | 128
URUGUAY 73 | 18
CHILE 67 | 27
ARGENTINA 38 | 96
BRAZIL 38 | 96
EGYPT 33 | 117
LIBYA 17 | 172
TUNISIA 44 | 70
ALGERIA 33 | 117
MOROCCO 39 | 87
MAURITANIA 28 | 140
SENEGAL 43 | 73
GUINEA-BISSAU 21 | 162
GUINEA 25 | 150
SIERRA LEONE 34 | 115
LIBERIA 29 | 136
MALI 29 | 136
IVORY COAST 36 | 105
BURKINA FASO 42 | 78
GHANA 43 | 73
BENIN 42 | 78
NIGERIA 24 | 154
CAMEROON 27 | 144
GABON 31 | 124
CONGO 21 | 162
ANGOLA 29 | 136
DR CONGO 19 | 169
NAMIBIA 49 | 58
BOTSWANA 55 | 45
S.AFRIKA 44 | 70
S.ARABIA 51 | 52
SUDAN 20 | 164
CHAD 20 | 164
ETHIOPIA 39 | 87
KENYA 30 | 128
UGANDA 27 | 144
RWANDA 53 | 52
TANZANIA 39 | 87
ZAMBIA 33 | 117
MALAWI 35 | 110
ZIMBABWE 23 | 157
MOZAMBIQUE 26 | 147
MADAGASCAR 26 | 147

180 COUNTRIES

The results are given on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

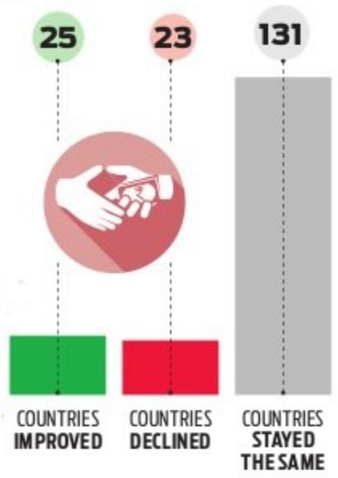
Source: transparency.org

NOTE
COUNTRY
SCORE VALUE | RANK
* A FEW OMITTED

COVID FACTOR

In the past year, government leaders in several countries got caught bending the rules. And just like everywhere else, the Covid-19 pandemic has tested top-scoring countries' resistance to corruption.

CPI SCORE CHANGES, 2012-21



ON THE MARK

Denmark retains its top position and shares it with Finland and New Zealand with 88 scores. India are ranked 85th on the list and its neighbours Pakistan 140 and Bangladesh is 147th. The worst countries on the index are the African countries of Somalia, South Sudan and war-ravaged country Syria.

NO PROGRESS

Despite commitments on paper, **131 countries have made no significant progress** against corruption over the last decade, and this year 27 are at a historic low in CPI score. Human rights and democracy across the world are under assault.

PARAMETERS, SCORES

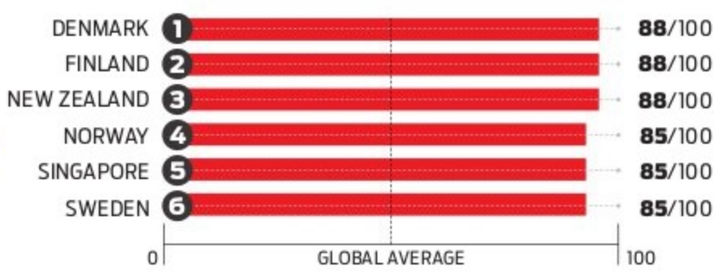
- According to the report, the index ranks **180 countries and territories** by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and businesspeople.
- It relies on **13 independent data sources** and uses a scale of zero to 100, where zero is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.

BAD TO WORSE

The report reveals that more than **two-thirds of** countries **(68%) score** below 50 **and the** average **global** score re**m**ains static at **43. Since** 2012, 25 **countries** significant**l**y improved **their** scores, but **in the** same peri**od 23** countries significant**l**y declined.

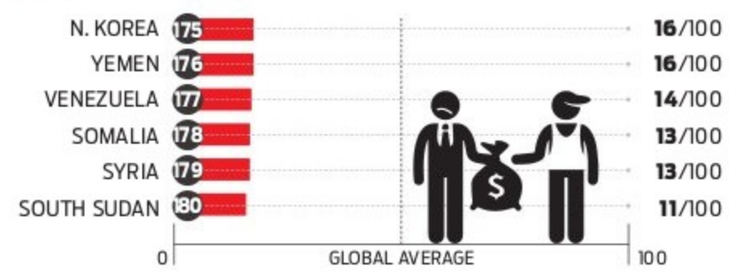
TABLE TOPPERS

Denmark, Finland and New Zealand are on top. Norway, Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland with 84 each follow



BOTTOM CRAWLERS

South Sudan (11), Syria (13) and Somalia (13) remain at the bottom. Nations in armed conflict tend to earn lowest points



> **In authoritarian contexts where control rests with a few, social movements are the last remaining check on power. It is the collective power held by ordinary people from all walks of life that will ultimately deliver accountability.**
>
> Daniel Eriksson, CEO, Transparency International Secretariat

MOST SIGNIFICANT FIVE-YEAR MOVERS

NOTE
Countries that the underlying data sources largely agree improved or declined, over the period 2017 to 2021. A full list of all statistically significant changes is available in the CPI 2021 dataset.

FACT OF THE MATTER

New species: Ghostly monkey

BIO-DIVERSITY

A monkey with ghostly white circles around its eyes is among 224 new species listed in the World Wildlife Fund's latest update on the greater Mekong region. The conservation group's report, released Wednesday, highlights the need to protect the rich biodiversity and habitats in the region, which includes Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar. The species listed were found in 2020 but last year's report was delayed. The monkey is called the Popa langur, for it lives on the steep hillsides of the extinct Mt. Popa volcano in Myanmar. It was the only new mammal. There are dozens of newly identified reptiles, frogs and fish and 155 plant species, including the only known succulent bamboo species of Laos.

'Cases high, deaths stable'

COVID

The World Health Organisation said there were 21 million new coronavirus cases reported globally last week, the highest weekly number of COVID-19 cases recorded since the pandemic began. The number of deaths was largely unchanged, at more than 50,000. In its weekly assessment of the pandemic, issued late Tuesday, the UN health agency said the number of new coronavirus infections rose by 5 per cent and that the rate of increase appears to be slowing; only half of regions reported an increase in COVID-19. Earlier this month, the previous highest number of cases ' 9.5 million ' was recorded amid a 71 per cent spike from the week before, as the contagious omicron swept the world.

Lennon memorabilia as NFTs

HISTORY

Beatles fans won't be able to touch them, but they can soon get their virtual hands on personal memorabilia from John Lennon's son Julian in the form of NFTs. The certified digital artworks going under the hammer in California next month include the NFT version of the handwritten notes for the song "Hey Jude", with an estimated price tag of up to $70,000. Originally entitled "Hey Jules", the Fab Four's hit was written in 1968 by Paul McCartney to comfort a young Julian during his father's separation from his mother, Cynthia. The NFT version is presented as an animation in which the words are progressively inscribed on the page and is accompanied by an audio commentary from Lennon junior. Lennon is also selling an NFT of the Afghan coat worn by his father on the set of "Magical Mystery Tour," which could fetch up to $10,000. Also available as an NFT will be John Lenon's three guitars,

New strain survives longer on plastic

COVID

TOKYO: The Omicron variant of coronavirus can remain alive on skin for over 21 hours, and more than eights days on plastic surfaces, which may be contributing to its faster spread compared to other strains, according to a study.

The researchers from Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine in Japan analysed the differences in viral environmental stability between the SARS-CoV-2 Wuhan strain and all variants of concern (VOCs). The yet-to-be peer-reviewed study, posted recently on the preprint repository BioRxiv, found that the Alpha, Beta, Delta, and Omicron

variants exhibited more than two-fold longer survival on plastic and skin surfaces, than the Wuhan strain.

"The high environmental stability of these VOCs could increase the risk of contact transmission and contribute to their spread," the authors of study said.

"This study showed that Omicron has the highest environmental stability among VOCs, which might be one of the factors that have allowed the variant to replace the Delta variant and spread rapidly," they said.

The study shows on plastic surfaces, average survival times of the original strain and the Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta variants were 56 hours, 191.3 hours, 156.6 hours, 59.3 hours, and 114 hours, respectively.

That compared to 193.5 hours for the Omicron variant, according to the researchers.

On skin samples, average virus survival times were 8.6 hours for the original version, 19.6 hours for Alpha, 19.1 hours for Beta, 11 hours Gamma, 16.8 hours for Delta and 21.1 hours for Omicron, they said.

There was no significant difference in survival times between Alpha and Beta variants, and they had similar environmental stability, which is consistent with the results of previous studies, according to the researchers.

Pfizer-BioNTech's Omicron vax trial

COVID : Geneva: Pfizer and BioNTech have begun enrollment for a clinical trial to test the safety and immune response of their Omicron-specific Covid-19 vaccine in adults aged up to 55, the companies said in a statement Tuesday. Pfizer's CEO Albert Bourla has previously said that the pharmaceutical giant could be ready to file for regulatory approval of the shot by March. The company's head of vaccine research Kathrin Jansen said in a statement that while current data showed that boosters against the original Covid strain continued to protect against severe outcomes with Omicron, the company was acting out of caution.

COMPLEX DYNAMICS

Research identifies fresh 'mixers' in river pollution 'cocktail'

ENVIRONMENT

LONDON: Water quality in rivers is affected by underpinning 'natural' hydrogeological and biogeochemical processes, as well as interactions between people and their environment that are accelerating stress on water resources at unprecedented rates, according to a new study undertaken as part of a partnership between Indo-UK projects.

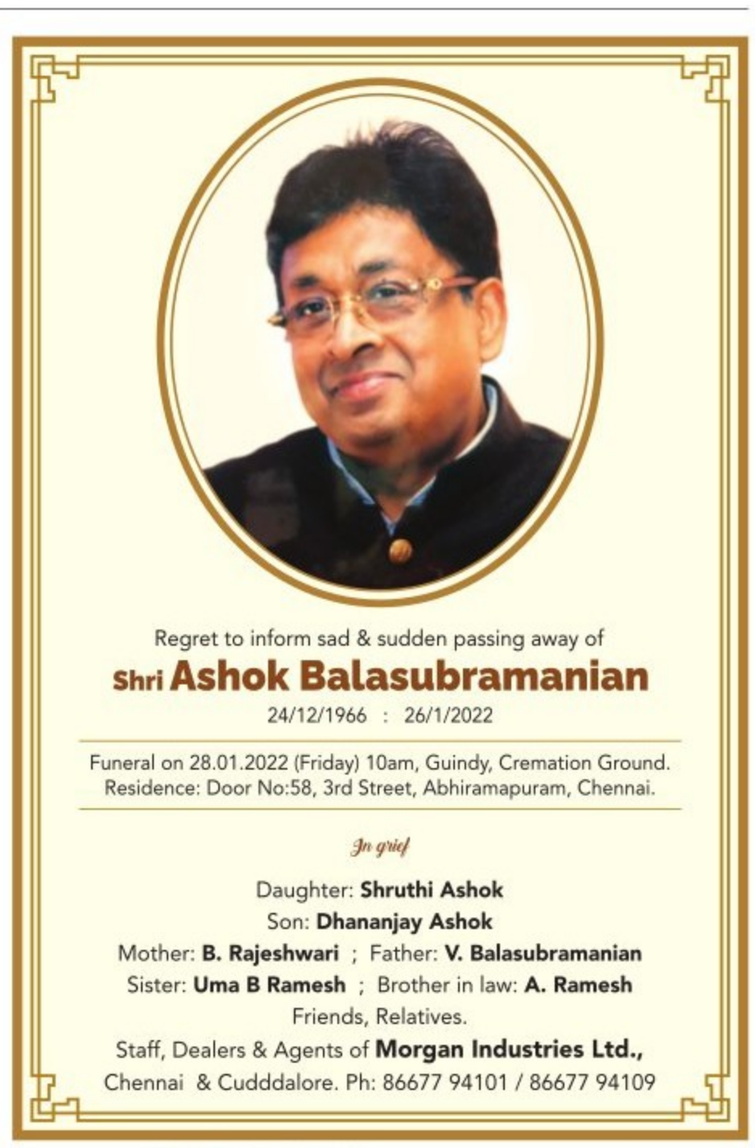
Pollutants can move at different speeds and accumulate in varying quantities along rivers where the mix of the complex 'cocktail' of chemicals that is making its way towards the ocean is constantly changing, the study reveals.

Researchers found that characteristic breakpoints often found when a tributary joins the main river or significant point sources exist can change the behaviour of some compounds, causing the concentration of these chemicals to change drastically, depending on where they are on their journey down the river.

"Large river systems, such as the Ganga, provide crucial water resources with important implications for global water, food and energy security. Understanding the complex dynamics of such systems remains a major challenge," said Stefan Krause, Professor of Ecohydrology and Biogeochemistry at the University of Birmingham. "The breakpoints we have identified in India change the behaviour of some compounds, altering the composition of the cocktail of chemicals flowing down the Ganga to the ocean," he said. He said breakpoint analysis could be a "game changer" in understanding how pollutants travel along major watercourses "allowing us to identify the 'hotspots' which will shed new light on aquatic pollution behaviour and how to tackle this.

Experts discovered the phenomenon after piloting a new, systematic approach to understanding hydrogeochemical dynamics in large river systems along the India's River Ganges (Ganga) from close to its source in the Himalayas down to the Indian Ocean. This new research approach proven successful at the iconic Ganga can be applied to other large river systems across the world ' hopefully shedding new light on how to tackle the global challenge of aquatic pollution by multiple interacting contaminants. They found that mixing, dilution and weathering are key processes controlling major hydrochemistry - identifying four major breakpoints which alter the concentration of at least four chemicals in the river.

"Our research helps to understand the downstream transitions in the chemistry of the Ganges providing important baseline information and quantification of solute sources and controls," said Laura Richards, the study's lead author.



Regret to inform sad & sudden passing away of

Shri Ashok Balasubramanian

24/12/1966 : 26/1/2022

Funeral on 28.01.2022 (Friday) 10am, Guindy, Cremation Ground.
Residence: Door No:58, 3rd Street, Abhiramapuram, Chennai.

In grief

Daughter: **Shruthi Ashok**
Son: **Dhananjay Ashok**
Mother: **B. Rajeshwari** ; Father: **V. Balasubramanian**
Sister: **Uma B Ramesh** ; Brother in law: **A. Ramesh**
Friends, Relatives.
Staff, Dealers & Agents of **Morgan Industries Ltd.,**
Chennai & Cudddalore. Ph: 86677 94101 / 86677 94109

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27.01.2022
THURSDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Holocaust remembrance

International Holocaust Remembrance Day is commemorated worldwide on this day in memory of the victims of the Holocaust

LIVES LOST

Holocaust means sacrifice by fire. Approximately six million Jewish civilians and five million other ethnic minorities were executed by the Nazi regime during World War II

PERSECUTION

The Holocaust was a systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of Jews by the Nazi regime and its collaborators

THEME FOR THE DAY

The observance of the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust is centred on the theme "Liberty, Life and the Legacy of the Holocaust Survivors"

James special poster finally out

PG 4

Glitz and Glam

Dressed in their fashionable best, Bengaluru socialites had a gala time at Derby 2022. *CE* captures the spirit of the day

SANATH PRASAD

IT was a pleasant day at the Kingfisher Ultra Derby 2022 held at the Bangalore Turf Club on Race Course Road. All eyes were on Zuccarelli piloted by jockey Trevor Patel and trained by Pedi Shroff, that won the Kingfisher Ultra Derby 2022.

On the other side, closely watching the tracks were derby enthusiasts who kept the mojo upbeat, donning their formal, casual and vibrant attires. Although the attendance seemed to be a little subdued due to the ongoing third wave of Covid-19, the regular derby enthusiasts were there to cheer on.

While the women came forward with their fashionable best, the men looked sharp in their suits.

In the house was Sandalwood actor Shubra Aiyappa with fiancee Vishal Sivappa. "I have a very special connection with Derby because Vishal and I had our first date here. I came here to take a break from my busy shooting schedule. I love the charged up atmosphere. But this time, that is subdued," said Aiyappa, who looked lovely in a simple black dress.

Calling it the season of blazer outfits was Deena Pinto, a lifestyle blogger, who wore a black blazer dress. "I think the blazer dress, which is a blend of casual and formal feature, perfectly matches the occasion. My birthday is on Thursday and this the best way to ring in my birthday celebrations," Pinto said.

Joining the blazer trend were Swapn Pandey, a consultant for beer and alcohol brands, and Renu Suresh, a socialite. "I have been attending Derby for the last four years and I have a very emotional connection to this place. Nevertheless, even through the pandemic, the craze and love for the horses still remains active," says Pandey, who will be launching a premium alcohol brand in the city soon.

Among the celebrities, *CE* spotted Abishek Ambareesh, son of Rebel star Ambareesh. "I have a lot of memories at BTC as my dad used to bring me here since I was a child. We have had our horses participate in the race several times but we have retired them this time around. We're hoping to get them ready for the upcoming derby events," he said.

(With inputs from Ashim Sunam)

Shubra Aiyappa

Abishek Ambareesh

PICS| SHRIRAM BN

Zuccarelli piloted by jockey Trevor Patel

Simpeeta Naik

Deena Pinto

Renu Suresh (L) and Swapn Pandey

ZUCCARELLI DELIVERS IN STYLE

The hot favourite, Zuccarelli from the stables of Pesi Shroff ridden by Trevor Patel, won the Kingfisher Ultra Derby on Wednesday. In fact, it was Zuccarelli's first run at the venue, but delivered in style to emrge triumphant. Prithviraj trained, All Attractive (Suraj) finished second. Silvarius (Srinath) took the third spot ahead of Eternal Blaze, who finished fourth.

Results: Kingfisher Ultra Derby Bangalore 2400M: Zuccarelli (K N Dhunjibhoy) 57 Trevor Patel 1, All Attractive 57 Suraj 2, Silvarius 57 Srinath 3, Eternal Blaze 55.5 C S Jodha 4.

KNOW YOUR CITY

Arun Prasad, city-based history researcher, unravels interesting facts about Bengaluru in this weekly quiz series. So it's time for you to find out how familiar you are with the city, beyond its heritage buildings, IT parks and the pub culture.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Know Your City Quiz'**

Correct answers and names of first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Thursday.

THE RIGHT ANSWERS ARE

1) Bangalore Fort Gate 2) Kempa Cheluvamba 3) Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace

FIRST THREE TO GET IT RIGHT

1. Muthu Rami
2. Ganapathy V
3. Manju Kumar

Proud Indian

Asha Bhat shared her most prized possession — her badges she earned during her time at NCC. As a tribute to 75th Republic Day, she wrote, "NCC has played a very important role in my life. When you work hard for something and you earn it, you learn to appreciate it even more. That's how we get those golden stripes on our shoulders. Sleepless nights, long hour drills, weapons training... Those who are eligible to join this prestigious association, plz go ahead!! (sic)". Head to her social media account to read the full post.

FUNNY HEIST

Loved watching Money Heist? Catch the standup comedy show called Funny Heist which will bring to you puns and entertainment for 90 mins at 55 Wallstreet Bar & Kitchen, JP Nagar. **When:** Jan 30 **Detail:** bookmyshow.com

SHOW TIME

Ever wondered what watching a movie under the sky feels like? The SCC SkyCinema is screening movies Serendipity and Notting Hill at The Hightide Restobar, Bannerghatta at 7.15 pm. **When:** Jan 28- 29 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

FOLK PAINTING

Get in touch with your traditions through painting. The rooftop is conducting a Manjusha Painting Workshop online. Manjusha is a traditional Indian art form. **When:** Jan 29, 5 pm **Details:** bookmyshow.com

DINE WITH LAUGHTER

Humour never gets old. Join Tharle Box featuring Niroop Mohan Live for a comedy show in Kannada. Happening at 6 pm at Drink N Dine, Uttarahalli. **When:** Jan 30 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

DO YOU FIND YOURSELF SINGING IN THE SHOWER? TRAIN WITH **MONALI THAKUR** ON UNLUCLASS | **WHEN:** JAN 29-30 | **DETAILS:** BOOKMYSHOW.COM

Bolly Punjabi Night

Get your dancing shoes on and head over to Badmaash Lounge, Koramangala, to enjoy a Bolly Punjabi Night. **When:** Jan 28 **Details:** Insider.in

World of Mandal

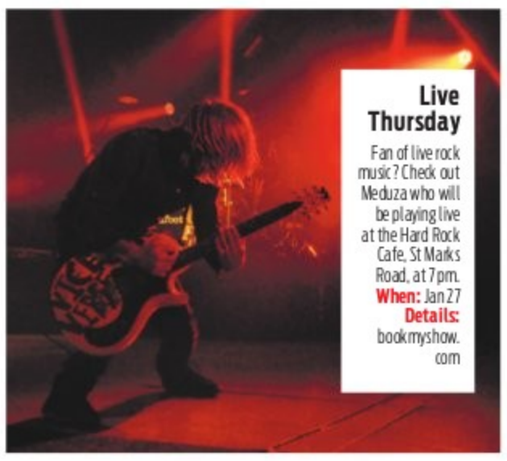
Mandala art is a way of relaxing and rejuvenating. Learn 3-D Mandala organised by The Rooftop and play with different geometrical designs.. **When:** Jan 31, 5 pm **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Gamer Life

Have you spent your childhood mastering video games? The Wishing Factory is organising an online mobile Call of Duty Tournament for all gaming enthusiasts. **When:** Jan 29- Feb 27 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

For baby feet

Peekaboo Patterns launches classic baby leather shoes that are ideal and versatile for any occasion! **Available at:** Bergamo Mall, **or call:** 99624 30862



Live Thursday

Fan of live rock music? Check out Meduza who will be playing live at the Hard Rock Cafe, St Marks Road, at 7pm. **When:** Jan 27 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com

GULGULA (SWEET PAKODA)

INGREDIENTS

- **Whole wheat flour:** 1/2 cup ■ **Sugar:** 1/2 cup ■ **Curd:** 2 tbsp
- **Fennel seeds** (optional): 1/2 tsp ■ **Oil:** 1 tsp ■ **Water:** To mix

METHOD

- Mix all the ingredients. Add water slowly and make a thick batter.
- Heat oil in a frying pan on medium-high heat.
- Slowly drop 1 teaspoon of batter at a time into the oil. Don't overcrowd the frying pan. Fry the gulgulas till golden brown on all sides, turning them occasionally. It will take 2 to 3 minutes.
- Remove and place them over a paper to absorb excess oil.

— Indu Gupta, Kolkata

FIT BIT

HANUMANASANA

(MONKEY POSE)

Hanumanasana is named after the Hindu monkey god Hanuman. The pose mimics the leap he took from the southern tip of India to the Island of Sri Lanka to rescue Sita. It is a split with one foot forward and the other backwards. It stimulates the Muladhara (root) and Svadhisthana (spleen or sacral) chakras. Opening the Muladhara grounds the individual, providing the inner stability. The latter is the center of creativity, pleasure and enjoyment. Opening this chakra promotes focus, productivity and inner acceptance. It is a preparatory pose for various asanas.

STEPS

- Begin in a kneeling position. Place the right foot forward and move the sole outwards. Rest the heel.
- Exhale and move your torso forward with your fingertips touching the ground firmly.
- Slowly move the left knee backwards, straightening it out as you also move the right thigh towards the floor until you get to the end of the stretch. You are now in a lunge position. Push your right heel forward slowly.
- As you do this it will now become possible to move the left leg t much further to the back lowering your pelvis.
- Make sure that the centre of the right kneecap is facing the ceiling. Also ensure that the left leg points back straight.
- When at maximum position, move the right heel forwards so that the ball of the foot points upwards or keep flat.
- Bring both your arms back and bring the palms in Anjali Mudra. Hold here for as long as you are comfortable.
- To release, slowly bring back your arms and place them on the floor for support and slowly return the right heel backwards and the left knee to starting position and relax.
- Alternate the legs and repeat.

BENEFITS

- Stretches the thighs, groin, and hamstrings.
- Helps stimulate abdominal organs.
- Strengthen the legs.
- Stretches the hips.
- Opens the hips flexors.
- Helps strengthen the abdomen.
- Traditionally, it is just like taking a leap of faith like Hanuman did and it has been practised as a way to conjoin your spiritual realm.

LIMITATIONS

- If you have groin or hamstring and chronic injuries, avoid practising this.
- Don't force this pose. Modify it with bolsters and preparatory poses. Do under the guidance of an expert.

— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

THE DROPOUT

Money. Romance. Tragedy. Deception. The story of Elizabeth Holmes and Theranos is an unbelievable tale of ambition and fame gone terribly wrong. The podcast hosted by Rebecca Jarvis tells the story of the former Silicon Valley darling.
- On Spotify

STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW

If you've ever wanted to know about champagne, satanism, the Stonewall Uprising, chaos theory, LSD, El Nino, true crime and Rosa Parks, then look no further. Josh and Chuck have you covered. Latest episodes include Tug of War, Rock Paper Scissors and How classified information works.
- On Spotify

CODE SWITCH

What's CODE SWITCH? It's the fearless conversations about race that you've been waiting for. Hosted by journalists of colour, our podcast tackles the subject of race with empathy and humour.
- On Apple Podcasts

OFF MENU WITH ED GAMBLE AND JAMES ACASTER

Comedians Ed Gamble and James Acaster invite special guests into their magical restaurant to each choose their favourite starter, main course, side dish, dessert and drink.
- On Apple Podcasts

WTF WITH MARC MARON

Marc Maron welcomes comedians, actors, directors, writers, authors, musicians and folks from all walks of life to his home for amazingly revealing conversations.
- On Apple Podcasts

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

ATHIRATHA

Following the family legacy, an engineering graduate takes up the job of a TV journalist. One day, he is arrested in connection to a banking scandal and must prove his innocence.
- Cast: Kabir Duhan Singh, Latha Hegde, Chetan Kumar, Sadhu Kokila

BHALE JODI

Suresh and Ramesh, two lookalikes, face troubles in their respective lives. When they cross paths in a chance encounter, they decide to tackle their problems together.
- Cast: Rajkumar, Bharathi Vishnuvardhan, Balakrishna, Pandari Bai

O NANNA NALLE

A young woman loses her eyesight and has to struggle to get accustomed to her surroundings. In a twist of events, she receives help from a musician that she disliked in the past.
- Cast: V Ravichandran, Isha Koppikar, Srinivasa Murthy, Sadhu Kokila

GOLISODA

Four friends cause trouble for a powerful man who is not a very forgiving man. Thereafter, the friends try to protect themselves and their loved ones from him while trying to fulfil their dreams.
- Cast: Priyanka Jain, Sahidev Vikram, Vikram Lagadapati, Madhusudhan Rao

PALLAKKI

A young and carefree man believes that enjoying life and falling in love are more important than family. Later, he understands the realities of life when the woman he loved leaves him.
- Cast: Ramaneetu Chaudhari, Sharan, Prem Kumar, Sumithra

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 HOW RADICALLY HOSPITALITY CAN CHANGE THE LIVES OF THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED BY REUBEN JONATHAN

For millions of Americans with a felony record, punishment doesn't end after prison. Sociologist Reuben Jonathan Miller sheds light on the aftershocks of mass incarceration through the stories of people who've lived it, left it and still grapple with punishing policies after their release.

2 4 STEPS TO HIRING FAIRLY AND SUPPORTING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM BY NYRA JORDAN

Many companies have made strides when it comes to prioritising diversity, equity, and inclusion, but one group remains largely left out: people who have been involved in the criminal justice system. Social impact investor Nyra Jordan introduces us to "fair chance hiring".

3 HOW TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS AND NOT ACCEPT LIMITS BY CANDACE PARKER

What can't Candace Parker do? A two-time NCAA champion, two-time Olympic gold medalist and two-time WNBA champion, Parker knows what it takes to fight for your dreams. In this inspiring talk, she shares what she's learned during a career spent not accepting limits.

4 3 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF ABOUT EVERYTHING YOU DO BY STACEY ABRAMS

How you respond to setbacks is what defines your character, says Stacey Abrams, the first Black woman in the history of the United States to be nominated by a major party for governor. In an electrifying talk, she shares the lessons she learned from her campaign for governor of Georgia — and some advice on how to change the world.

5 HOW TO FIND WORK YOU LOVE BY SCOTT DINSMORE

Scott Dinsmore quit a job that made him miserable, and spent the next four years wondering how to find work that was joyful and meaningful. He shares what he learned in this deceptively simple talk about finding out what matters to you — and then started doing it.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

KD (Tamil)

When Karuppu Durai learns that his family has decided to perform euthanasia on him, he runs away from home. However, his life takes an unexpected turn when he meets Kutty, a young boy.

Cast: Nagavishal, Mu Ramaswamy, Gabrella Sellus
- Watch on: Netflix

NAVARASA (Tamil, series)

The nine episodes in the series represent a different emotion such as anger, compassion, courage, disgust, fear, laughter, love, peace and wonder.

Cast: Suriya, Revathi, Arvind Swamy
- Watch on: Netflix

NETRIKANN (Tamil)

Being the prime witness, a former policewoman who cannot see must unveil a horrific case of serial abduction where the culprit has unleashed a reign of terror in the city of Chennai.

Cast: Nayanthara, K Manikandan, Ajmal Ameer
- Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar

OH! BABY (Telugu)

Savitri, a 70-year-old woman who is unhappy with her life, accuses God of her problems. When she gets her photograph clicked at a studio, she is transformed into a beautiful 24-year-old girl.

Cast: Samantha Ruth Prabhu, Lakshmi, Naga Shaurya
- Watch on: Netflix

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

VEYILMARANGAL (Malayalam)

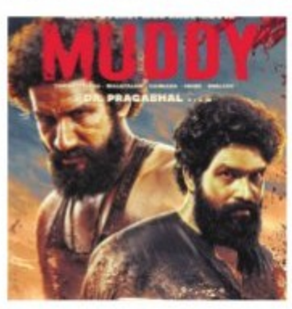
After a village in Kerala is flooded, A scheduled caste family which doesn't get any support from the government migrates to Himachal Pradesh in search of a job and struggles to adapt to a new environment.

Cast: Indrans, Sarita Kukku, Prakash Bare
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

SHAVA NI GIRDHARI LAL (Punjabi)

A man is desperate to find a match because of his increasing age, but makes everyone uncomfortable and gets into trouble every time he meets a gorgeous girl.

Cast: Gippy Grewal, Surilie Gautam, Yami Gautam
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video



MUDDY (Malayalam)

Newcomer Tony attempts to enter the rivalry between Muthu and Karthy as they compete in three unique mud races.

Cast: Bineesh Bastin, Anusha Suresh, IM Vijayan
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

FOREIGN

ETERNALS (English)

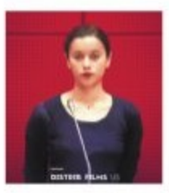
The Eternals, a race of immortal beings with superhuman powers who have secretly lived on Earth for thousands of years, reunite to battle the evil Deviants.

Cast: Salma Hayek, Angelina Jolie, Gemma Chan
- Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar

SUMMER HEAT (English, series)

A group of young adults have an unforgettable summer while working at the Hotel Maresia as they discover love, true friendship and devastating secrets.

Cast: Giovanna Lancellotti, André Luiz Frambach, Cynthia Senek
- Watch on: Netflix



THE GIRL WITH A BRACELET (French)

Lise is accused of murdering her best friend. As the trial starts, her parents stand right by her side. But once her secret life is revealed in court, the truth becomes indistinguishable.

Cast: Roschdy Zem, Chiara Mastroianni, Melissa Guers
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

BILLIONS (English, series)

Chuck Rhoades, a sincere but ruthless US attorney, engages in an egoistic battle with hedge fund kingpin Bobby 'Axe' Axelrod as they try to outdo each other in the competitive financial market.

Cast: Damian Lewis, Maggie Siff, Asia Kate Dillon
- Watch on: Disney+ Hotstar

SUBSCRIPTION

Disney+ Hotstar: ₹ 499 per year
Apple TV: ₹ 99 per month
Prime Video: ₹ 129 per month
Netflix: ₹ 149 per month

Exercise the right way for health benefits

The stronger the muscles and tissue around your joints, the better they support and protect your joints. Exercise to stay fit

DR PALAK DENGLA

EXERCISING is bad for the joints; thus, I don't want to do it', according to a widely held belief. Does this sound familiar? Exercising is not damaging to your joints, according to research. In fact, evidence shows that exercises strengthen the joints by generating both healthy cartilage and muscular support surrounding around them, keeping them stronger for longer, as well as improving hormonal balance, controlling blood sugar, and increasing muscle strength.

The stronger the muscles and tissue around your joints, the better they support and protect your joints, and if you do not exercise, your joints will stiffen and become painful. It is critical that your muscles remain as strong as possible. If you don't exercise, muscles shrink and lose their girth, they weaken providing lesser support to the joints which in turn increases their load on weight bearing positions like running, playing, walking, standing, sitting, bending, and reaching out for objects. This increases the chances of slipped disc, early degenerative diseases like arthritis, and more prone to fracture.

Moreover, the stability of your knees, hips, and other joints is dependent on a supporting network of muscles and ligaments. Exercises that strengthen these muscles and ligaments will enhance your joints over time, making you less susceptible to injury. Weight is used in strength training to progressively increase muscular tone. If you're new to training, start with bodyweight exercises and progress to weight machines, which give stability as you work out, before moving on to free weights like kettlebells or dumbbells.

The following are some exercises that should be performed correctly:

SQUATTING: Back up against a wall. Feet should be shoulder-width apart and your heels should be around 18-inches from the wall. Keep knees aligned with your heels rather than in front of your toes. As you squat, take a few deep breaths. Your buttocks should not fall below the level of your knees. Maintain a firm abdominal core and a flat back against the wall. As you stand up, push up through your heels rather than the balls of your feet and inhale.

DEEP LUNGING: If necessary, cling to your support. With one leg, take a step forward. Make sure your front knee is higher than your ankle. Never let your knee move past your ankle. Slowly lift your back heel off the floor once you're in a secure position. Continue rising until your back knee meets your hip in a straight line. Involve your abdominal muscles by tightening them. This will assist you in maintaining a straight back while you lunge. Your front knee will be overworked if you slouch or bend forward.

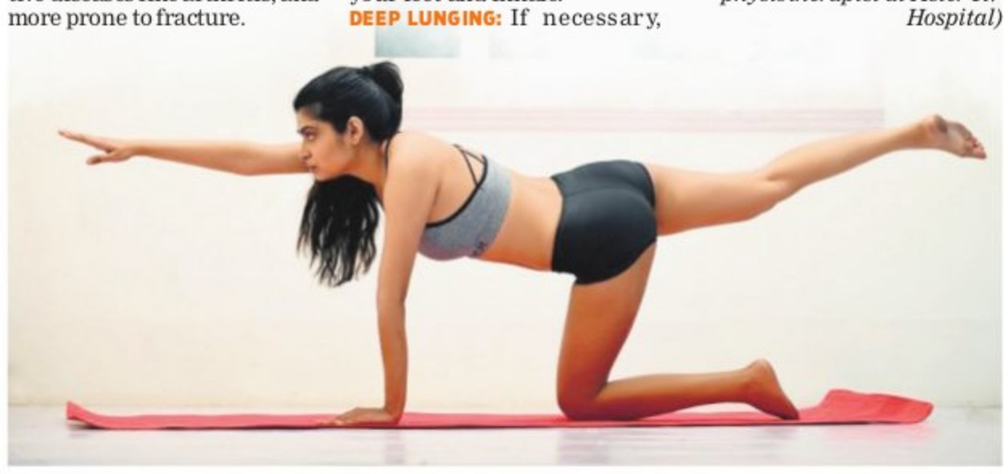
RUNNING: Choose shoes that are robust and supportive. If possible, run-on dirt, grass, gravel, or asphalt. They're not as hard as concrete. Pay attention to any discomfort. Take a day or two off if you are experiencing greater discomfort than normal and consult your doctor.

JUMPING: A typical rule of thumb is to rest for two or three days between high-impact sports. You shouldn't practice for more than an hour. Wearing a knee brace while practise may be beneficial. If you have slight discomfort or swelling after practise, see your doctor.

WALKING OR RUNNING UP THE STAIRS: Maintaining your stability may be achieved by taking it slowly and steadily. Assist yourself with the railing. If you use a cane, speak with your physical therapist about the best ways to use it on the stairs. Begin with a shorter workout and gradually increase the duration. Doing too much too soon might be dangerous. To fit your demands, adjust the rising height.

To discover which option is best for you, consult with your physiotherapist. They can provide particular recommendations as well as advice on best practises.

(The writer is a chief physiotherapist at Aster RV Hospital)



Each surrogacy experience means something different to everyone. Here's everything you need to know before you take that step

THE CHALLENGES AND REWARDS OF SURROGACY

DR MANISHA SINGH

MANY women and men struggle with infertility and other health difficulties, making childbirth difficult for them. A strong desire to have children, on the other hand, leads to other options. We live in a time where technology has improved and the number of possibilities available has grown, with almost all improbable automation evolving over time.

Although each surrogacy journey is as special as the people involved, and the experience means something different to everyone, there are also numerous physical, emotional, financial, and legal problems to consider while considering a surrogacy agreement.

The advantages of surrogacy seem self-evident to hopeful parents: it allows them to realise their goals of becoming parents.

1 **Surrogacy brings families together:** Surrogacy is often the answer to years of unsuccessful attempts to start a family for those who have struggled with infertility, LGBT couples, and those with medical issues that make pregnancy dangerous.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Nick Jonas had their first child through surrogacy.

2 **Enables genetic ties to be made:** One or both parents may be able to preserve a biological bond.

3 **Better transparency:** Legally binding contract defining everyone's expectations will be developed and signed prior to the embryo transfer, so everyone understands precisely what to expect during the surrogacy process.

4 **Assures participation in the process:** Intended parents are frequently allowed to take part in check-ups and key milestones such as embryo transfer and birth.

5 **High success rates:** Surrogacy often helps in the delivery of healthy pregnancies.

There are also some negatives to consider for hopeful parents:

1 **Surrogacy can be a difficult process:** To ensure the process is conducted safely and lawfully, it is critical to engage closely with a trustworthy specialist.

2 **Necessitates relinquishing some power:** While intended parents often have more control and engagement some control needs to be sacrificed.

(The writer is a senior consultant - Gynaecologist & Reproductive Medicine at Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road)

Here are a few legally binding facts to know:

The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill is about surrogacy, which is an infertility therapy in which a woman serves as the surrogate mother. Treatments can be obtained by the commissioning couple themselves in ART, and a third person is not necessarily required.

- The Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation Bill (ART), 2021, establishes guidelines for the safe and ethical use of assisted reproductive technology in the country and makes married couples, live-in partners and single women all eligible for RT procedures. They will be regulated by the National Board for advisement, regulation, reviews of regulations, guidelines, etc.
- Sex selection and sex determination are likewise prohibited under the measure.
- The Surrogacy Bill now allows "willing woman" instead of "near relative" to be a surrogate mother, and suggests that widows and divorced women, as well as infertile Indian couples, might benefit from its provisions.
- The new legislation prohibits commercial surrogacy in India but allows altruistic surrogacy, which involves no monetary compensation to the surrogate mother other than the medical expenses and insurance coverage during the pregnancy.
- To safeguard the rights of a surrogate, the bill proposes an increase in the insurance cover timeline for surrogate mothers to 36 months from 16 months provided in the earlier version. In the first draft, tabled in 2019, the government intended to allow only altruistic surrogacy with the surrogate being a near relative. It is still unclear whether this has been changed or not in the approved bill.
- And, in order to complete the process, both parties must apply to the National/State ART board and receive approval on a case-by-case basis.

The bill regulating surrogacy, also strictly prohibits commercial surrogacy.

Even soliciting surrogacy in a commercial manner is now considered illegal.

NUGGETS

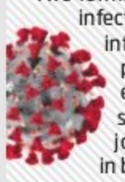
'No benefit from culling wild birds to control virus'

In response to recent large-scale outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in wild birds, the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds has said there is no benefit in attempting to control the virus in wild birds through culling. The suggestions concerning wild birds said all those with responsibilities for animal health are to ensure that there is no consideration of killing of wild birds, and other habitats as disease control measures. —IANS

Over one lakh nurses required in Australia by 2030: IHM

More than a lakh qualified nurses will be required in Australia by 2030, as per an official of Melbourne-based Institute of Health and Management (IHM). IHM media coordinator Thiruvallam Bhasi said that an ageing population and increasing demand for health services, coupled with the increased adoption of new technologies and practices is changing the role and skills required of a nurse in Australia. —IANS

Study explores ways to get super immunity against Covid-19



Two forms of immunity — breakthrough infections following vaccination or natural infection followed by vaccination — provide roughly equal levels of enhanced immune protection, finds a study. The study, published online in the journal Science Immunology, found that in both cases, the immune response measured in blood serum revealed antibodies that were equally more abundant and more potent — at least 10 times more potent — than immunity generated by vaccination alone. —IANS

Rhinoplasties have evolved not only in terms of how natural they look now but also in terms of the procedure itself

All about Rhinoplasty

DR KARISHMA

RHINOPLASTY or a nose job in colloquial terms is one of the most popular plastic surgery procedures across the globe. The procedure has only gained popularity over time and a lot of people looking to accentuate their features opt for it to enhance their overall appearance. It is a natural discourse for something to evolve as it grows in demand and rhinoplasties are no different. Rhinoplasties have evolved not only in terms of how natural they look now but also in terms of the procedure itself. Technology and practice has helped in making rhinoplasties non surgical and painless.

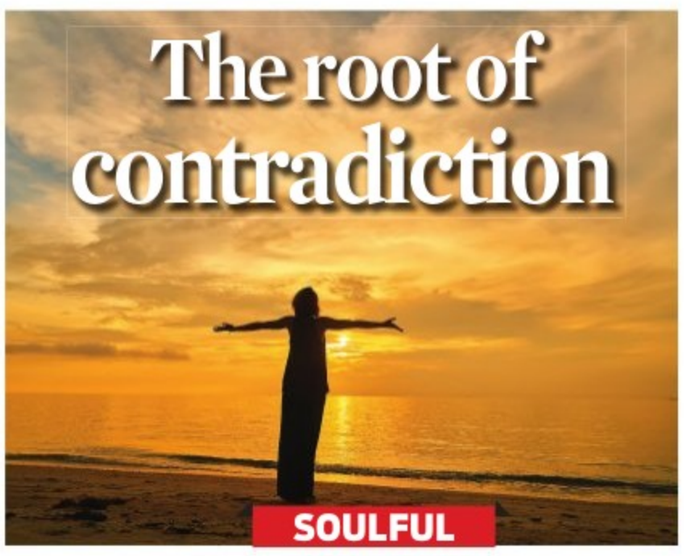
In the last few years, there has been an emergence of non-surgical and non-invasive procedures. A non-surgical rhinoplasty is essentially an injectable where in Hyaluronic acid filler is used to transform the appearance of the nose giving the patient desired results. The procedure has been trending on social media as 'Liquid Rhinoplasty'.

The advantage of opting for a non-surgical rhinoplasty is the fact that it takes only five to 10 minutes to get done, unlike with a surgical nose job which would require several weeks. A non-invasive procedure such as this one is executed with immediate visible results and almost zero recovery time. It allows the patient the freedom to undo the procedure if they don't like it without any hassle or re-adjust it based on their requirement.

However, a non-surgical procedure is less permanent and can last for anywhere between 12-18 months. The effects of the non-surgical rhinoplasty can also be easily reversed by injecting an enzyme called hyaluronidase, should the patient want to undo the procedure for whatever reason. It is also a low-risk procedure with little to no infection risk and does not require the patient to be anesthetised. It is slowly becoming a day procedure and being opted by many working individuals for painless outcomes.

The non-surgical rhinoplasty is quite possibly one of the biggest achievements in being able to provide a risk free easy recovery solution to patients/ individuals seeking to enhance their features. It has become a global phenomenon with brides & grooms opting for it as well before their big day, because of its quick recovery time and zero scarring. The flexibility of the non surgical procedure such as this one is what most of us are working towards. We strive to make procedures as painless as possible to ensure the best possible outcome. With such innovations in the industry one can only look forward to the leaps we will take in order to streamline, minimise risk and make aesthetic and cosmetic procedures affordable.

(The writer is the owner and founder of Dr Karishma Aesthetics, Indiranagar)



SOULFUL

The root of contradiction

THE word is never the thing. The word is not action. But most of us live in words, in images, in symbols, and therefore action doesn't breed or bring about energy. And we dissipate whatever energy we have through contradiction within ourselves; and we seldom realise that energy, or the passion of energy, comes through action. Action is energy. It's not that you must have energy first to act. But when one realises the word is not the thing, is not the act, and therefore begins to understand the structure of the word and the meaning and significance of word, then there is action; and it is action that brings about the passionate sustained energy, which has nothing whatsoever to do with enthusiasm. And we cannot act — that brings about energy — when there is contradiction within ourselves. And most of us consciously or unconsciously have many kinds of contradictions; some of which we are aware, know, and others of which we do not know. And so all our life is caught up in this contradiction, and therefore there is no clear, direct action, which alone can bring about energy. And energy is necessary, not only to do physical activity but also energy, that sustained passionate energy to go right through any one action completely. And so, it seems to me that it is very important to understand this nature of contradiction: the contradiction between the word and the act, the contradiction between the conscious demands, urges, pursuits, and the unconscious hidden demands, secret desires and pursuits. There are contradictions in our activities, in our desires, in our pursuits, in our various forms of human existence.

I think one is aware of this if one is at all conscious of one's own activities and being and thoughts; and so, on being aware of these contradictions, one tries to integrate, try to bring about an integration within oneself. And I think that such an act of integration is sheer folly. We cannot integrate the opposites. You cannot possibly integrate love and hate. Either you hate or you love — there is no combination of both, no integration. So I think we should be very clear — at least for this morning if you will — that the attempt to bring about integration within oneself has no meaning at all. What has meaning and what has significance is the understanding and therefore being free of contradiction. And to be free is to be aware of the contradiction — perhaps most of us are not aware of it even, we just carry on. And when we do become aware of this extraordinary contradiction not only outwardly but very deeply, and we find no solution for it, no answer, no freedom from it, we either turn to so-called god — that is the whole structure of belief, dogma, ritual, authority, which is generally called religion — or take life and give it no significance at all, which is what most modern writers are trying to do. They have denied the whole structure of the church, which any intelligent man must deny, for it has no meaning whatsoever; and then they're forced to face their own contradiction — their hates, their despairs, their hopes, their utter helplessness. And so they say, there is only this life, it has no meaning, let's make the best of it, and the philosophy of despair.

-Jiddu Krishnamurti

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PUNEETH RAJKUMAR TO PLAY THE ROLE OF AN ARMY OFFICER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN JAMES

The special poster revealed on the occasion of Republic Day has patriotism written all over it. The action commercial entertainer to be released in multiple languages

A SHARADHAA

LATE actor Puneeth Rajkumar-starrer *James* has been making headlines for various reasons, and the special poster of the Power Star revealed by the makers on the occasion of Republic Day only adds to the hype surrounding the film. Puneeth for the first time will be seen in a role of an army officer in Chethan Kumar's directorial *James*, which is billed to be an action commercial entertainer.

The poster of *James* was shared by Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar and PRK Productions on their social media handles. Puneeth looks intense as an army officer, who holds a rifle. It is all set in the military backdrop and it has created a rage within minutes of the release.

It is an emotional moment for the team, says the director, about Puneeth's role in the film and adds, "The importance of this particular episode will be revealed on the silver screen." *James* is backed by Kishore Pathikonda, and is slated to hit the cinema halls on March 17, which is Puneeth Rajkumar's birth anniversary, and the team has also officially announced that the film will be releasing in multiple languages. "We have simultaneously begun the dubbing process for various languages. The Kannada film will be dubbed and released in Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi," says Chethan.

The team is looking forward to making it a memorable one for Puneeth Rajkumar fans. The first-day-first-show of *James* will be screened at every single theatre (approximately 600) across Karnataka. This will be apart from the multiplex shows. This is the first time music director Charan Raj is associated with Puneeth's film and *James* has J Swamy handling the camerawork.

James also brings together the Rajkumar brothers as Shivarajkumar and Raghavendra Rajkumar will make a special appearance. The film features Priya Anand as the female lead. The film also stars Srikanth Meka, Mukesh Rishi, Aditya Menon, Anu Prabhakar, Rangayana Raghu, Harsha, Suchendra Prasad, Ravi Shankar Gowda, Chikanna Shine Shetty, and Tilak.

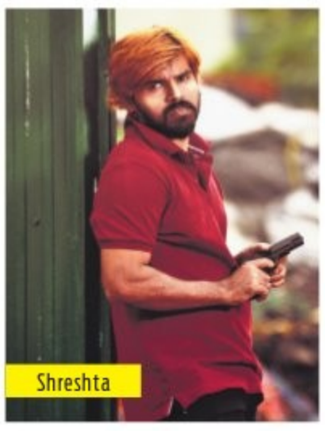
Abhi marks his directorial debut with Shreshta in the lead

CE FEATURES

ABHI, who has worked under the guidance of director Suri for 9 years, and later assisted Duniya Vijay in *Salaga* is all set to make his directorial debut. The first-time director has come with a unique title launch, which will be revealed on January 27 at 6 pm on A2 Music YouTube channel.

"I started my career in 2011 with Suri Sir in *Kaddipudi*, and have been associated with his films *KendaSampige*, *Doddmane Huduga*, and *Tagaru*. I was also part of *Popcorn Monkey Tiger* for six months. Later, I worked in *Salaga*. I am bringing all that experience to my first directorial venture," says Abhi.

Billed to be a commercial entertainer, Abhi has brought together an unusual star cast for the film. Shreshta, who came to the limelight for his role as Kenda in *Salaga* will be playing the lead role. With Shruti Patil as the female lead, Abhi has finalised Jahangir, Jatti and Apoorva to play prominent roles. The film will go on floors om February 14, and the entire shooting is set to take place in North Karnataka.


Shreshta

Shruti Patil

Abhi with director Suri

Backed by producer Christopher Kini's Aartha Entertainers, the technical team includes music director Charan Raj, cinematographer Shiv Sena, and editor Deepu S Kumar.

With Maasthi penning the dialogues, the project has Jayant Kaikini and Nagarjuna Sharma onboard as the lyricists. Fight masters -- Vinod and Jolly Bastian, and dance choreographer Mohan will also be associating with the project.

Jake Gyllenhaal

Jake Gyllenhaal to star in and produce heist thriller *Cut and Run*

CE FEATURES

HOLLYWOOD actor Jake Gyllenhaal will star in and produce an upcoming heist thriller titled *Cut and Run*. The news comes as New Republic Pictures picked up the project after competitive bidding.

Cut and Run will have a script written by John Glenn (of Eagle Eye-fame). The film's official logline reads, "A group of thieves who use high-powered speedboats to rob superyachts steal the wrong thing from the wrong group of people."

Gyllenhaal will also produce the film through his Nine Stories Productions, along with New Republic's Brian Oliver and Bradley Fischer. Writer Glenn is also on board to produce.

Notably, Gyllenhaal and New Republic collaborated for the upcoming Michael Bay action thriller *Ambulance*. New Republic and Nine Stories are also joining hands for an adaptation of Robert Kirkman's graphic novel Oblivion Song. Gyllenhaal, who was last seen in the Netflix thriller *The Guilty*, will be seen soon in *Ambulance*.

Steve Carell, John Krasinski reunite for family film *IF*

CE FEATURES

THE Office co-stars Steve Carell and John Krasinski are all set to reunite for the upcoming family movie IF. Carell, along with actors Louis Gossett Jr, Alan Kim, and Cailey Fleming have joined the cast of the film, which has Krasinski on board as writer, director and as one of the leads.

The new cast members join the previously announced cast including Ryan Reynolds, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, and Fiona Shaw.

Annaleigh Ashford to star opposite Kumail Nanjiani in *Immigrant*

CE FEATURES

HULU'S upcoming true-crime series *Immigrant* has added actor Annaleigh Ashford to its cast. The actor will star alongside the previously announced Kumail Nanjiani and Murray Bartlett.

Immigrant will center around Chippendales' founder Somen "Steve" Banerjee (Nanjiani) and will detail the insane, crime-ridden story behind the unique male revue that became a cultural phenomenon. Ashford will play the role of Steve Banerjee's wife Irene, an accounting wizard who bonds with her husband over their fondness for finding ways to work around paying takes. From a woman who keeps to herself, she steps up and takes her husband's business into her own hands.

Annaleigh Ashford

The buck starts here

EXPRESS FEATURES

THE Ice Age franchise is completing two decades this year and one of its fan-favourite characters, *Buck*, is getting his standalone film with *The Ice Age Adventures of Buck Wild*. The film, which will stream on Disney+ Hotstar from Friday, has actor Simon Pegg returning to voice the one-eyed weasel. Connecting virtually for a press conference, Pegg says that he had always wanted a film for Buck. "I have been dropping hints about this for 12 years (laughs). The Ice Age story has so many fabulous characters and given how this is the era of the cinematic universe, I don't think there is another animation franchise more suited to an expansion like this. This is a lovely way to give over some time to not only Buck and Crash and Eddie, but also Zee and other new characters who are welcome additions to this fabulous group."

Despite lending his voice for several films like *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* and *The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn, Pegg feels Buck* is still a challenging character to pull off. "Buck is in my muscle memory now, because I have played him a few times, but I just have to get a lot of sleep before sessions because they are always extremely energetic as Buck is just full-on all the time. After the voiceover session, I am always exhausted because I put everything into the voice. If it's a live-action performance, you have gesticulations and expressions to lean on. With this work, it all goes through that one facet of your ability to perform; it's incredibly fun," says Pegg, who loves this character for many reasons. "I have strong affection for him because he was born the same year my daughter was born. She's grown up with these films, and with him, and rather strangely, even as this new Ice Age installment comes out, my sister just gave birth this week. So, there's a new Ice Age baby to take the stories forward (smiles)."

On account of the pandemic, Pegg had to experience a new set-up for voicing Buck which he found to be intriguing, considering he has never met actor Justina Machado who has lent her voice to Buck's partner in crime, Zee. "We met over Zoom. The most incredible thing about animation is the assembling of all the pieces and creating chemistry. It was amazing seeing Buck and Zee having this relationship and chemistry. Also, I ended up doing a lot of my sessions from my house. The engineers set up the studio in this room and I would shuffle in. I didn't wear pants for some of the sessions. For a lot of it, I was wearing my slippers. It has been one of my favourite jobs ever, because I didn't even have to leave the house," concludes Pegg, laughing.

Simon Pegg

FROM BIHAR TO HOLLYWOOD

Actor Nitu Chandra Srivastava who has forayed into Hollywood with *Never Back Down: Revolt*, that is set to release this Friday on BMS Stream, looks back at her journey

RAM VENKAT SRIKAR

HALFWAY through the telephonic conversation with Nitu Chandra Srivastava, ahead of the Indian digital premiere of her Hollywood debut, *Never Back Down: Revolt*, the actor connects our chat to one of her learnings over the years. "It's important to stay humble and grounded, regardless of who you are and what you are trying to do. Everybody in this world is working hard to give their best; look at you, working on a Sunday morning, look at the person who put us together for this interview... Everyone is trying their best, especially amidst the chaos surrounding us, when the world is changing at a drastic pace. This is a major learning from the Indian film industry."

The actor seems quite aware of the hardships and failures she has circumvented over the course of her 17-year-long career and takes pride in it. "From where I come, Bihar, young girls don't really aspire to become actors or sportswomen," says Nitu, who holds a black belt in taekwondo, having represented India thrice in World Championship. "I'm proud that I come from a place where the burden is not about making it big in life but giving your all to whatever profession you choose. After debuting with *Garam Masala* in 2005, my thought process began to evolve as I got exposed to one brilliant talent after another, such as Amitabh Bachchan and Naseeruddin Shah. That's when I started to get into the groove of acting and tried to educate myself every minute. Acting, after all, is all about living, not just thinking. I guess it has all paid off," she says.

Nitu believes her sports background played a vital part in helping her land the role in *Never Back Down: Revolt*. Sharing how the project came her way, Nitu says, "I started traveling to the US to seek opportunities and was invited to the premiere of *Bad Boys for Life*, where I met the producers of *Never Back Down*, who were working on the fourth installment. I pointed out in jest that they were action producers and I'm an action actor and that got them curious about my work. When I told them about my tryst with taekwondo, they roped me in. Landing in a film without an audition and look test is uncommon in Hollywood, and it was made possible only by David Zelon (one of the producers), who placed a blind bet on me. It only added to my happiness when he told me that nobody would have played the character, Jaya, better than me." Nitu has one more reason to cherish the film—her character Jaya was apparently written around her real-life persona, with her ethnicity seeping into the role. "When I met Audrey Arkins, the film's writer, we chatted about my life and how people of Bihar are tough from the inside, although they maintain a persistent, pleasant smile on their faces. She quickly asked, 'What if you played a character that's the opposite of what you just described?' And the result is Jaya, a cold-blooded killer."

A still from *Never Back Down: Revolt*

Her taekwondo experience came in handy but didn't mollify the difficulty of the assignment she had signed up for. "We trained for the action sequences for almost a month, every day beginning at 7 in the morning, and this was followed by two and a half weeks of shooting. Doing it with bare feet in freezing temperatures was a crazy experience. After a point, as punches landed on my body, I got numb; I didn't feel a thing. Tim Man, the action choreographer, did a wonderful job with composing the sequences. Every punch, slap kick and back kick were carefully choreographed. In fact, it was like music. Fighting is no different to dance; it's about rhythmic movement between two people," observes Nitu, who feels that the film has opened doors for her in Hollywood, where she supposedly is to work on two more films.

Nitu has been an advocate for "cleaner" Bhojpuri cinema, propagating the need for films in her mother tongue to shed the "crass and adult-centric" tag they have come to be attributed with. She produced two films so far, with the sophomore project, the Maithili-language drama, *Mithila Makhaan*, bagging her a National Award in 2017. It's a struggle, she admits, but it's a path she is willing to persist in. "Five languages of Bihar—Bhojpuri, Magahi, Maithili, Angika and Vajjika—are spoken by over 50 million people globally, but there is no content to watch with their families. I want to change that." Nitu says her mission is to "produce films from my roots" while "acting in national and international films". She concludes by referring to Robert Frost's, '*The Road Not Taken*'. "People never tend to take the uncommon, untouched path, but I have and will continue to. I'm glad to have chosen this route and I hope many will follow."

Nitu Chandra